

**New,  
Improved!**

**Dykes To Watch  
Out For**

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all the people who have, among other things, given me criticism, offered advice, inspired plot developments, read my rough drafts, psychoanalyzed my characters, bolstered my ego, parodied me, posed for me, shared intimate details of their lives with me, helped think up punch lines, and indulged my favorite pastime of conversing about what will happen next in the strip.

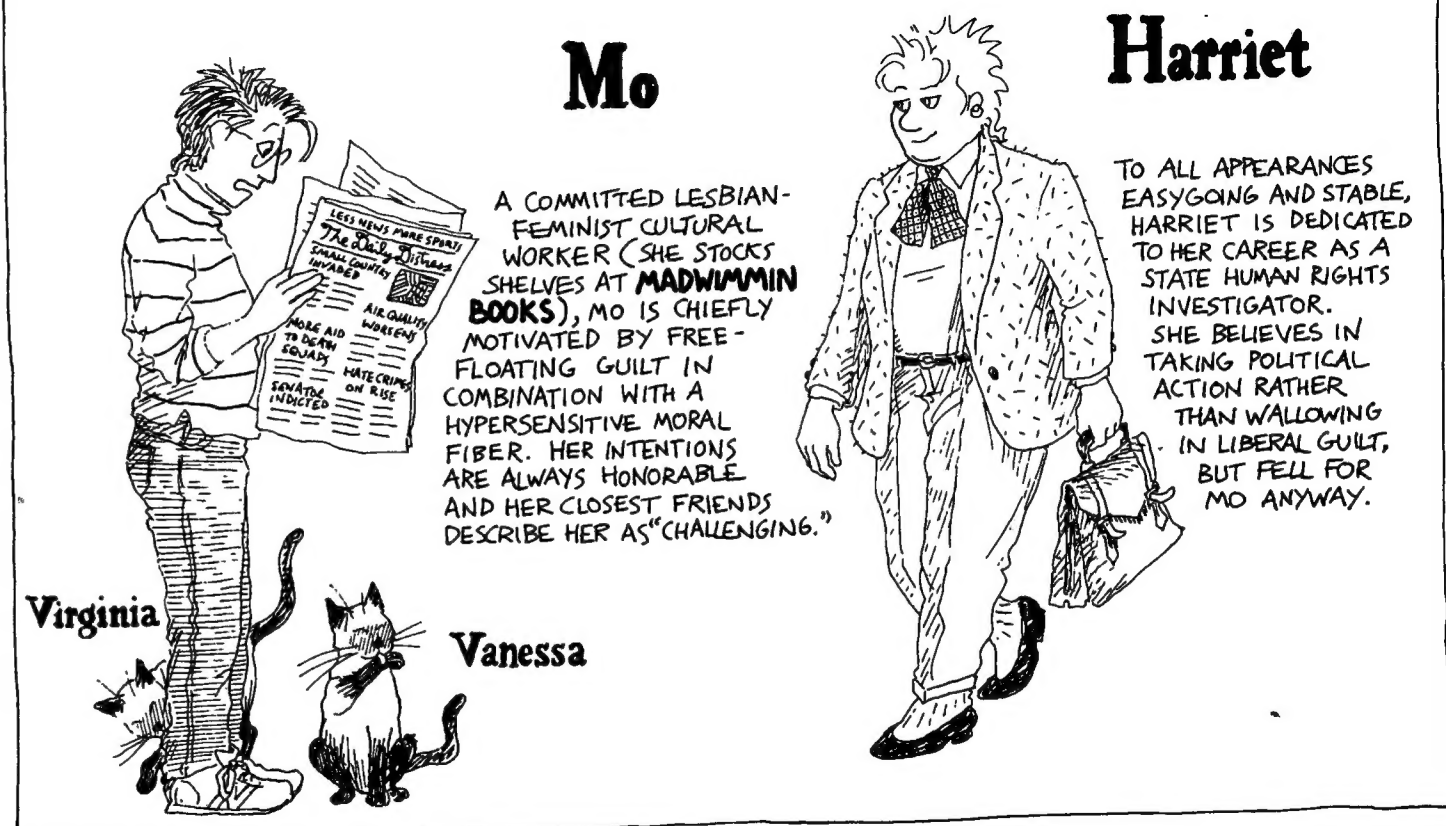
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And to Ethel and Julia, for keeping me company.

And my eternal gratitude to Nancy Bereano of Firebrand Books, who had faith in me from the very, very beginning.

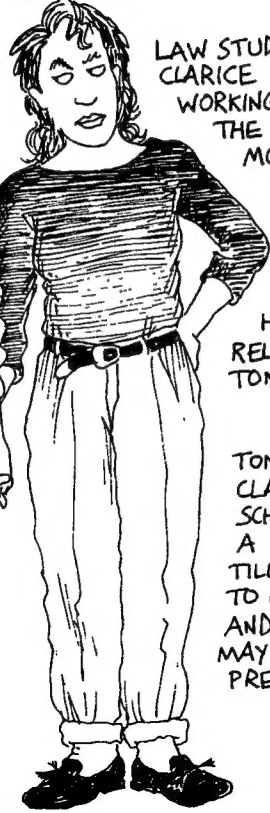
## Introducing ...



**Clarice**



**Toni**



LAW STUDENT WITH A SOUL, CLARICE IS A FIRM BELIEVER IN WORKING FOR CHANGE WITHIN THE SYSTEM. SHE WAS MO'S FIRST LOVER, BUT NOW THEY'RE JUST FRIENDS. CLARICE IS HAPPILY DEVOTED TO HER LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH TONI... OR IS SHE?

TONI IS HELPING TO PUT CLARICE THROUGH LAW SCHOOL WITH HER JOB AS A C.P.A. SHE'S WAITING TILL THE TIME IS RIGHT TO COME OUT AT WORK -- AND TO HER FAMILY. MAYBE AFTER SHE GETS PREGNANT.

**Lois**

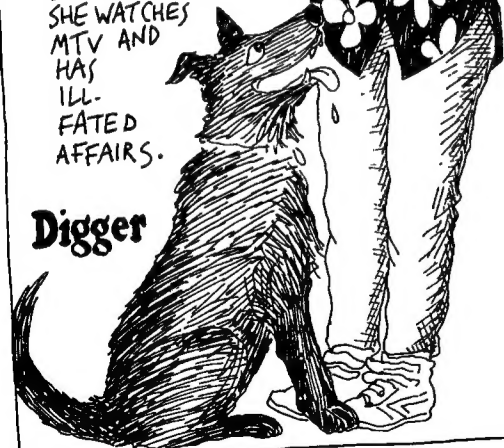


LOIS IS MO'S COWORKER AT THE BOOKSTORE. THEY ARE THE BEST OF FRIENDS DESPITE THE FACT THAT LOIS IS LESS CONCERNED ABOUT STARVATION AND CORRUPTION THAN WITH FLIRTATION AND SEDUCTION. SHE IS NONETHELESS A STAUNCH ADVOCATE OF COLLECTIVE LIVING, AND SHARES A HOUSE WITH GINGER AND SPARROW.

**Ginger**

GINGER FIGURES THAT IF SHE HAS TO TEACH FRESHMAN ENGLISH, AT LEAST SHE CAN PUT AUDRE LORE ON THE READING LIST. WHEN SHE'S NOT WORKING ON HER PH.D. OR BATTLING THE UNIVERSITY BUREAUCRACY, SHE WATCHES MTV AND HAS ILL-FATED AFFAIRS.

**Digger**



**Sparrow**



BETWEEN HER INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP THERAPY SESSIONS, 12-STEP MEETINGS, CHIROPRACTIC APPOINTMENTS, AND SPIRITUALITY CIRCLES, SPARROW HAS HARDLY ANY TIME LEFT OVER TO GUILT-TRIP HER LESS HIGHLY-EVOLVED HOUSEMATES.

**Jezanna**



BOSS OF MADWIMMIN BOOKS, A NON-COLLECTIVELY-RUN FEMINIST BOOKSTORE, JEZANNA IS A RECOVERING WORKAHOLIC. SHE HOSTS ANNUAL COMING OUT PARTIES AND MAKES VAIN ATTEMPTS TO KEEP LOU AWAY FROM HER MORE VULNERABLE FRIENDS.

**the**



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HAVING DECIDED, UPON FURTHER DISCUSSION, THAT SAFER-SEX PRECAUTIONS WERE NOT NECESSARY, MO AND HARRIET PROCEEDED TO INDULGE IN A WIDE RANGE OF AMOROUS EXPLORATIONS. SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, WE FIND MO PONDERING HER NEW NON-CELIBATE STATUS.

JEEZ, THAT WAS NICE... I GUESS I DIDN'T FORGET HOW AFTER ALL...



HOW CAN SHE SLEEP? I CAN NEVER SLEEP IN A STRANGE BED... OR WITH A STRANGE PERSON FOR THAT MATTER... PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY'RE LYING ON MY ARM...



WITH ZEN-LIKE PATIENCE, OUR HEROINE PERSEVERES INTO THE NIGHT AS HER ARM, IF NOTHING ELSE, DOZES OFF.



...SO NOW WHAT? IS THIS JUST A CASUAL THING FOR HER? MAYBE SHE DOES THIS ALL THE TIME... MAYBE SHE'S INCAPABLE OF COMMITMENT, OR WORSE YET, NON-MONOGRAMOUS ON PRINCIPLE!



...OR MAYBE SHE THINKS THIS MEANS WE'RE MARRIED? WHAT IF SHE STARTS CRITICIZING MY TABLE MANNERS AND ASKING ME WHAT I'M THINKING ABOUT? I DON'T THINK I'M READY FOR THIS...



HER THOUGHTS RUN ON IN THIS MANNER TILL NEARLY DAWN...

I WONDER IF SHE WANTS TO HAVE CHILDREN... SHE SEEMED TO LIKE THE CATS... I THINK MY MOTHER WOULD LIKE HER...



HUH? WAS I ASLEEP? ASLEEP?! I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK YOU WERE IN A COMA!



OH, WOW... WHAT TIME IS IT? A QUARTER PAST TEN. RELAX! IT'S SATURDAY! SHIT! I WORK SATURDAYS... I HAF TA BE AT THE BOOKSTORE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!



JUST HOW STRONG IS OUR HEROINE'S MORAL FIBER ANYWAY? STAY TUNED!



# MODES OF RESISTANCE

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**A**T BREAKFAST WITH GINGER, SPARROW & LOIS...

"THE F.B.I. INVESTIGATION WAS BEGUN IN 1981 AFTER ALLEGATIONS, NEVER PROVED, THAT CISPES\* MEMBERS HAD PROVIDED ILLEGAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO LEFTIST GUERRILLAS IN ELSALVADOR."

JEEZ! I MEAN, COME ON! IT'S PRACTICALLY ALL THE LOCAL CISPES OFFICE CAN DO TO PAY THE RENT AND MAYBE GET TOGETHER A CARTON OF BAND-AIDS AND ASPIRIN TO SEND DOWN TO A CLINIC...

MEANWHILE, RONNIE'S BEEN ILLEGALLY GIVING ZILLIONS IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO RIGHTIST GUERRILLAS IN NICARAGUA...

IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU TOSS YOUR GRANOLA.

I ALSO SEE HERE THAT THE CONTRA-AID VOTE IS COMING UP IN A FEW DAYS. WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT IT?

WRITE OUR REPRESENTATIVES! GAYS AND LESBIANS FOR JESSE JACKSON IS HAVING A LETTER-WRITING PARTY TONIGHT.

WHAT'LL THAT ACCOMPLISH?! IT'S RIDICULOUS THAT REAGAN'S EVEN ASKING FOR THIS MONEY! WE SHOULD ALL DROP WHAT WE'RE DOING, GO TO D.C., AND CHAIN OURSELVES TO THE CAPITOL DOORS!

NO, NO, NO... THAT'S JUST MISDIRECTED ENERGY! I THINK WE SHOULD ALL HAVE A MEDITATION RITUAL AND SEND CONGRESS A HEAVY DOSE OF WHITE LIGHT!

AW, SPARROW! DON'T GIVE ME THAT UPPER-MIDDLE CLASS NEW AGE TWADDLE! THE ONLY WAY TO EFFECT CHANGE IS THROUGH DIRECT ACTION, NOT WEARING EXPENSIVE CRYSTALS AROUND OUR NECKS!

IF YOU THINK ANYONE'S GOING TO NOTICE, LET ALONE CARE, THAT YOU'VE CHAINED YOURSELF TO A DOOR, LOIS, YOU'RE MISTAKEN! WE ALL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS TO MAKE OUR VOTE COUNT!

THE "DEMOCRATIC PROCESS" IS TOTALLY DYSFUNCTIONAL! NOTHING'LL CHANGE UNTIL SOCIETY REALIZES HOW SICK IT IS! OUR FIRST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO HEAL OURSELVES... THE WORLD WILL FOLLOW!

WHY DO WE WASTE OUR ENERGY FIGHTING LIKE THIS? IT'S ANOTHER F.B.I. SCHEME. THEY'VE BEEN INJECTING OUR TOFU WITH TESTOSTERONE.

\* COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ELSALVADOR

# COMMUNIQUE

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**A**LTHOUGH SHE IS EXPECTED TO OPEN THE DOORS OF MADWIMMIN BOOKS TO THE PUBLIC IN TEN MINUTES, MO IS UNABLE TO WRENCH HERSELF FROM HARRIET'S EMBRACES!

CAN'T YOU CALL LOIS AND HAVE HER OPEN UP FOR YOU?

NO, NOT LOIS! SHE SAW US LAST NIGHT AND SHE'D KNOW WHY I WAS LATE.

SO? IT'LL BE ALL OVER TOWN BY NOON. I'LL CALL ARIADNE. SHE OWES ME A FAVOR.

HI, GINGER. IT'S ARIADNE. I HAFTA CANCEL OUR BRUNCH DATE. I'M WORKING FOR MO THIS MORNING. NO, I DUNNO... SHE JUST SAID 'SOMETHING CAME UP.'

MORNING GINGER!

HI, NAOMI! SAY, GUESS WHO DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR WORK THIS MORNING AFTER WE SAW HER AT THE TOPAZ WITH HARRIET LAST NIGHT... METHINKS THE CHASTE MAIDEN MO FINALLY GOT LAID!

...ORGANIC BLACK BEANS \$1.55...

HEY, TONI... DIDJA HEAR ABOUT MO & HARRIET?

HONEY! I PICKED UP SOME HOT NEWS AT THE CO-OP!

HEY, LOIS! GUESS WHO FINALLY DID IT!

MEANWHILE, MO TEARS HERSELF AWAY...

MMM... -SMACK- WE HAFTA STOP...

YEAH, I KNOW -SLURP- I'LL BE LATE AGAIN.

AND ARRIVES AT THE BOOKSTORE BY NOON, JUST AS LOIS DROPS IN!

HELLO, MO! YOU LOOK FLUSHED. JA WORK OUT THIS MORNING OR SOMETHING? Y'KNOW, I COULD REALLY GET INTO AN EXERCISE PROGRAM LIKE YOURS!

GREAT, LOIS. GREAT. I'M REALLY IMPRESSED. I THINK THIS COMMUNITY JUST SET THE LAND SPEED RECORD FOR GOSSIP MONGERING!

DETAILS! I WANT DETAILS!



# a little domestic

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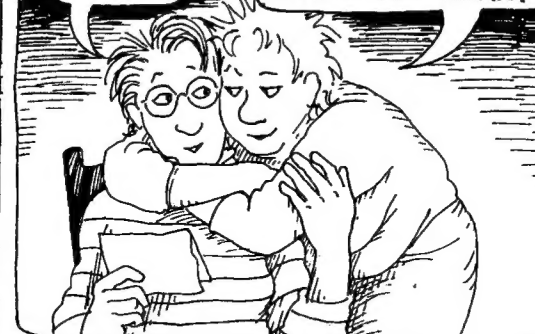


OH, NO! ANOTHER ONE!

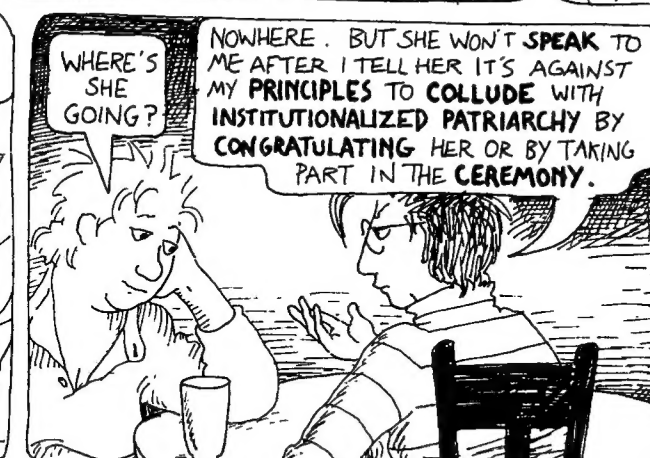
WHAT?! A COLLECTION NOTICE? A CHAIN LETTER?

NO. A WEDDING INVITATION FROM AN OLD STRAIGHT FRIEND.

I DUNNO, MO. I CAN'T QUITE PICTURE YOU IN PEACH TAFFETA... WHAT'LL YOU WEAR?



DON'T BE SILLY, HARRIET! I CAN'T GO. I'M GONNA MISS OLE SUZANNE, THOUGH.



WHERE'S SHE GOING?

NOWHERE. BUT SHE WON'T SPEAK TO ME AFTER I TELL HER IT'S AGAINST MY PRINCIPLES TO COLLUDE WITH INSTITUTIONALIZED PATRIARCHY BY CONGRATULATING HER OR BY TAKING PART IN THE CEREMONY.



I DON'T GET IT. SO SHE WANTS TO GET MARRIED. WHAT'S THAT TO YOU?



WHAT'S IT TO ME?! D'YOU THINK OUR RELATIVES WOULD GIVE US ELECTRIC FONDUE POTS AND TUPPERWARE IF WE GOT MARRIED? WOULD YOUR HEALTH INSURANCE COVER ME? COULD WE FILE A JOINT INCOME TAX RETURN? WHAT IF WE WANTED TO ADOPT A KID?



OKAY, I GET THE POINT. BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD FIGHT FOR THOSE RIGHTS INSTEAD OF TRASHING PEOPLE WHO BENEFIT FROM THEM?



NO! I DON'T WANNA FIGHT TO BE LIKE OZZIE AND HARRIET! WE NEED TO ABOLISH COUPLEHOOD AND MARRIAGE AND THE NUCLEAR FAMILY IN ORDER TO REALIZE OUR TRUE HUMAN POTENTIAL! WE CAN LIVE IN, UH... COMMUNES OR SOMETHING.



LEMME TELL YOU, AS SOMEONE WHO GREW UP IN A COMMUNE, ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS GETTING MARRIED AND LIVING IN A HOUSE WITH A PICKET FENCE!



HARRIET, UH... WE'VE ONLY BEEN GOING OUT FOR A WEEK... ISN'T IT A LITTLE SOON TO START TALKING ABOUT MARRIAGE?



AH, THE TRUTH COMES OUT! UNDERNEATH ALL THAT RHETORIC LIES YOUR DEEP-SEATED FEAR OF INTIMACY! DON'T THERAPIZE ME, HARRIET!



OZZIE! OUR FIRST FIGHT! AAAGH! STOP! TWEAK

# The CURE

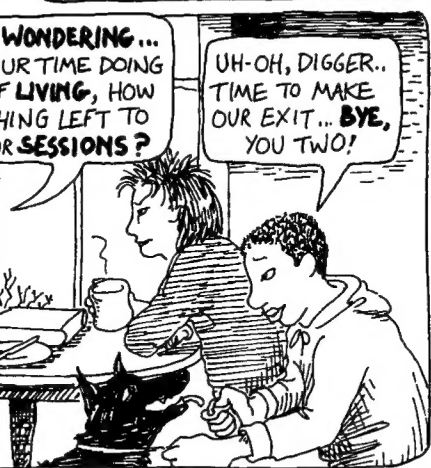
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YOU GUYS WANNA EAT TOGETHER TONIGHT? I THOUGHT I'D WHIP UP SOME CREAMED BURDOCK WITH TURNIP LOAF.

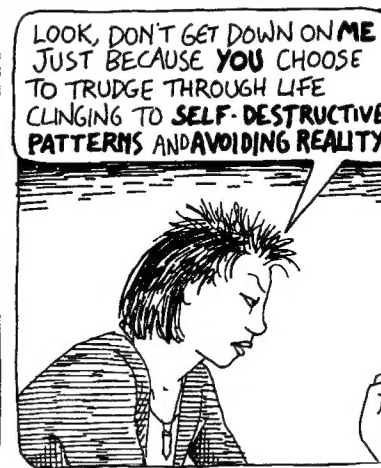
SOUNDS GREAT.

I WON'T BE HOME TILL LATE. I HAVE THERAPY.



SPARROW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING... IF YOU SPEND ALL YOUR TIME DOING THERAPY INSTEAD OF LIVING, HOW DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING LEFT TO TALK ABOUT IN YOUR SESSIONS?

UH-OH, DIGGER.. TIME TO MAKE OUR EXIT... BYE, YOU TWO!



LOOK, DON'T GET DOWN ON ME JUST BECAUSE YOU CHOOSE TO TRUDGE THROUGH LIFE CLINGING TO SELF-DESTRUCTIVE PATTERNS AND AVOIDING REALITY!

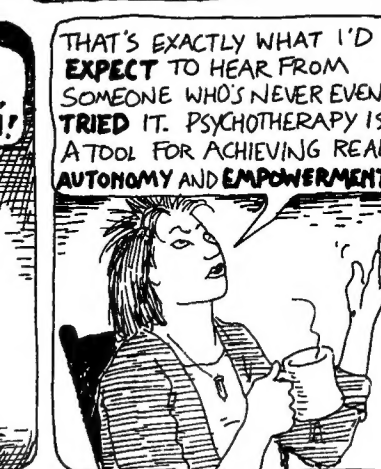


I'M AVOIDING REALITY?! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SPENDS SIX HOURS A WEEK NAVEL-GAZING! I'M OUT THERE STAFFING THE RAPE CRISIS HOTLINE AND INTERACTING WITH THE COMMUNITY!



DON'T GUILT-TRIP ME, LOIS. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD. BUT IF YOU WANT TO DO SOMETHING TRULY RADICAL, THEN TRY THERAPY.

THERAPY IS A SELF-INDULGENT, CLASSIST, INDIVIDUAL SOLUTION!



THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'D EXPECT TO HEAR FROM SOMEONE WHO'S NEVER EVEN TRIED IT. PSYCHOTHERAPY IS A TOOL FOR ACHIEVING REAL AUTONOMY AND EMPOWERMENT..



... SO WE CAN OVERCOME THE REPRESSION IMPOSED ON US BY THE PATRIARCHY. YOU CAN'T GET MUCH MORE REVOLUTIONARY THAN THAT.



I DON'T NEED TO PAY A SHRINK TO GET EMPOWERED! AND BESIDES, I'M PERFECTLY HEALTHY EMOTIONALLY!



UH-HUH, RIGHT. THAT'S WHY YOU SLEEP WITH EVERY WOMAN YOU MEET. FACE IT, LOIS! YOU'RE A SEX ADDICT!

AT LEAST IT'S CHEAPER THAN BEING A THERAPY JUNKIE!



I THINK WE SHOULD CONTINUE THIS DISCUSSION WHEN WE'RE BOTH MORE RATIONAL. I'M GOING TO WORK.

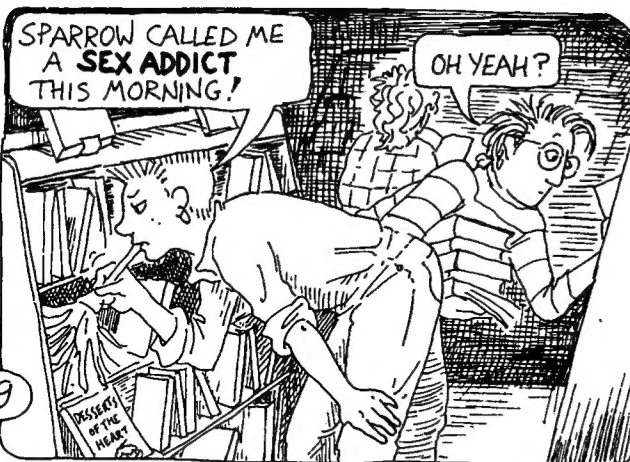
SURE! RUN AWAY FROM A LITTLE HONEST CONFLICT! GO PROCESS IT WITH YOUR GROUP! AND DON'T EXPECT ME TO SAVE YOU ANY TURNIP LOAF!



# THEORY and PRACTICE

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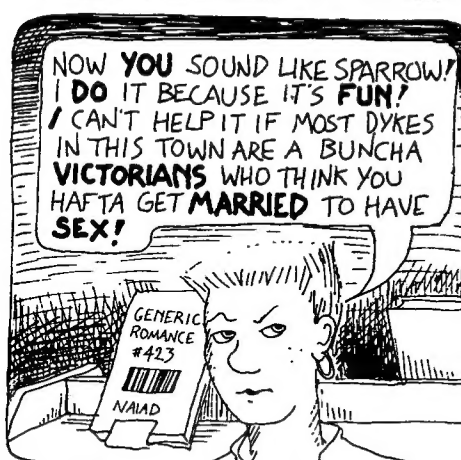
SPARROW CALLED ME A SEX ADDICT THIS MORNING!

OH YEAH?

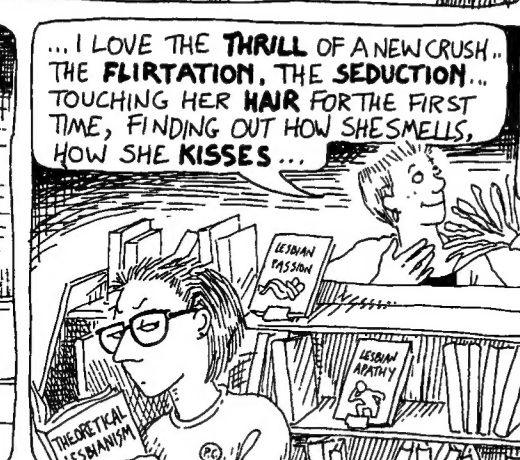


DO YOU THINK I'M A SEX ADDICT?

WELL JEEZ, LOIS... I DUNNO... YOU SLEEP AROUND A LOT, BUT I GUESS IT DEPENDS ON WHY YOU DO IT... LIKE, ARE YOU AVOIDING INTIMACY?



NOW YOU SOUND LIKE SPARROW! I DO IT BECAUSE IT'S FUN! I CAN'T HELP IT IF MOST DYKES IN THIS TOWN ARE A BUNCH OF VICTORIANS WHO THINK YOU HAFTA GET MARRIED TO HAVE SEX!



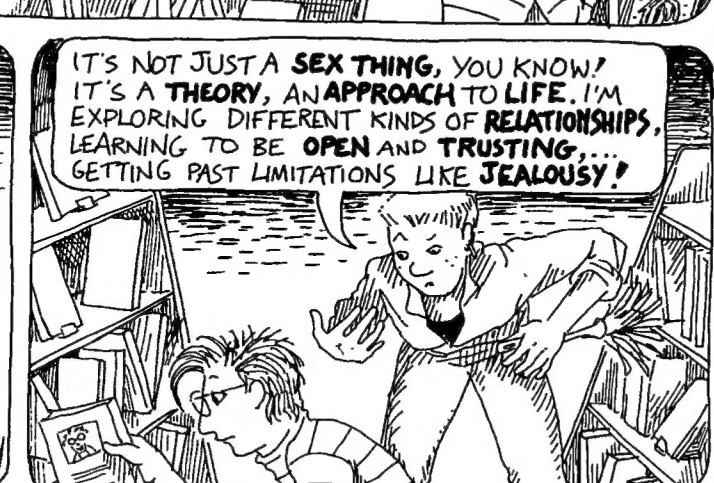
... I LOVE THE THRILL OF A NEW CRUSH... THE FLIRTATION, THE SEDUCTION... TOUCHING HER HAIR FOR THE FIRST TIME, FINDING OUT HOW SHE SMELLS, HOW SHE KISSES...



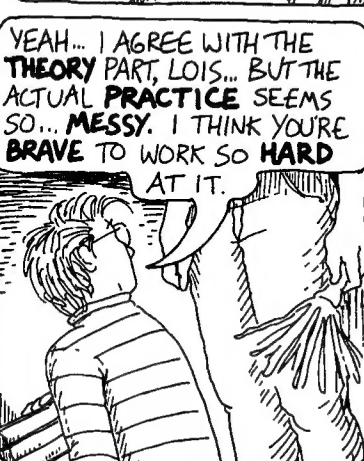
UH... YEAH, OKAY. BUT WHAT HAPPENS AFTER ALL THAT? WHAT IF SHE'S MORE SERIOUS THAN YOU? WHAT IF SHE HAS A LOVER? HOW DO YOUR OTHER GIRLFRIENDS FEEL ABOUT IT? DON'T THINGS GET, UH... KINDA COMPLICATED?



YEAH, IT'S A DRAG SOMETIMES... BUT I'M ALWAYS UPFRONT ABOUT MY INTENTIONS. I'VE NEVER SLEPT WITH ANYONE UNDER FALSE PRETENSES.



WELL... AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT HURTING ANYONE...



YEAH... I AGREE WITH THE THEORY PART, LOIS... BUT THE ACTUAL PRACTICE SEEMS SO... MESSY. I THINK YOU'RE BRAVE TO WORK SO HARD AT IT.



NO I DON'T! I JUST THINK THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR MONOGAMY TOO!



OH YEAH? THAT HARRIET MUST BE PRETTY HOT STUFF!

# COLD FEET

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CLARICE?

MMNH.



CLARICE, I'M PREGNANT.

WHAAT?!



RELAX. I WAS JUST TESTING. LISTEN, THOUGH. I'VE BEEN THINKING A LOT ABOUT THIS LATELY. I WANT TO HAVE A BABY.



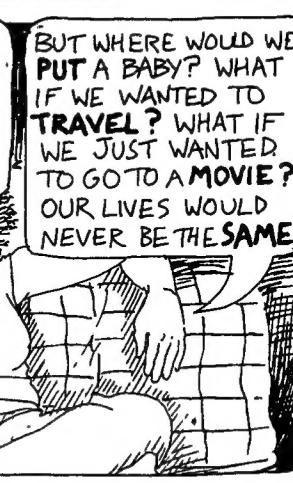
WELL, YEAH, ME TOO. SOME DAY WE WILL.



JEEZ, TONI! I'M STILL IN SCHOOL! WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY... OR ANY SPERM, FOR THAT MATTER... WE CAN'T RUSH INTO ANYTHING!



AND WE CAN'T WAIT TILL WE'RE MILLIONAIRES TO HAVE A BABY, EITHER! YOU'LL BE OUT OF SCHOOL EVENTUALLY. WE'LL LOOK FOR A SPERM DONOR OR GO TO A CLINIC.



BUT WHERE WOULD WE PUT A BABY? WHAT IF WE WANTED TO TRAVEL? WHAT IF WE JUST WANTED TO GO TO A MOVIE? OUR LIVES WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME!



THAT'S PART OF THE IDEA. I LOVE YOU VERY MUCH, CLARICE. I THINK WE HAVE A LOT TO OFFER A KID!



I DUNNO, HONEY... I GUESS DEEP DOWN, PART OF ME THINKS LESBIANS WERE CREATED FOR OTHER PURPOSES THAN RAISING CHILDREN!



LIKE WHAT? BEING DRILL SERGEANTS OR DOG BREEDERS?! THAT'S DOWNRIGHT HOMOPHOBIC, CLARICE!



UH... I MEANT... DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD WAIT TILL I'VE DONE SOME THERAPY? HOW CAN I BECOME SOMEONE'S MOTHER UNTIL I RESOLVE MY OWN CHILDHOOD?!



# ONE AFTERNOON IN THE GROVES OF ACADEMY

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PLANNING HAS BEGUN FOR THE ANNUAL GAY & LESBIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE.



COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN FORMED.



CLARICE IS ON HER WAY TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE.

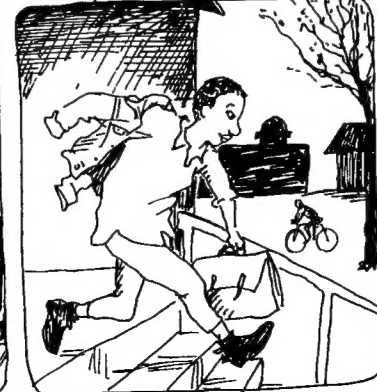


GINGER, GRADUATE STUDENT IN ENGLISH, LEAVES HER SECTION OF FRESHMEN WITH SOME WORDS OF WISDOM...

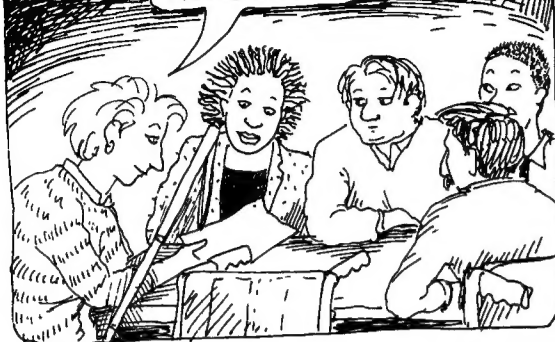


QUIT WHINING! READING SOMETHING BY SOMEONE WHO'S NOT STRAIGHT, WHITE, & MALE IS NOT GOING TO KILL YOU!

AND SETS OUT FOR THE VERY SAME MEETING.



WE NEED TWO PEOPLE TO TAKE THIS WHEELCHAIR AND MAKE SURE THESE WORKSHOP LOCATIONS ARE REALLY ACCESSIBLE.



OUR WIMMIN VOLUNTEER!



MY NAME'S CLARICE. I'M AT THE LAW SCHOOL. YOU'RE ONE OF LOIS' HOUSEMATES, RIGHT?

YEAH. I'M GINGER. I'VE SEEN YOU AROUND BUT WE'VE NEVER MET.



UH-UH.



NOPE.



YOUR TURN. I'M GETTING BLISTERS.



DAMN.

THIS IVORY TOWER NEEDS SOME RAMPS!

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, GINGER?! BUILD RAMPS AND ANYONE COULD GET UP!! THE WHOLE SCHOOL WOULD BE OVERRUN BY BLACK COMMIE DYKES IN WHEELCHAIRS! REALLY, NOW!



# TROUBLE in Paradise

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AFTER A GRUELING DAY AT WORK AND SCHOOL, OUR DYNAMIC DUO REGROUPS FOR DINNER AT THE TOPAZ.

LOOK, CHICA! THERE'S A GROUP OF LESBIANS MEETING TO TALK ABOUT HAVING BABIES. LET'S GO! MAYBE IT WILL HELP YOU TO FEEL LESS SCARED.

UH... GROUP?



EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

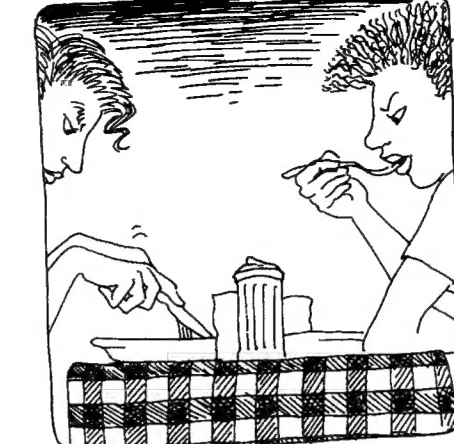
OH, TOO BAD. TUESDAYS ARE THE COMMITTEE NIGHTS FOR THE GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES CONFERENCE.



OH, OF COURSE. HOW SILLY OF ME TO THINK PLANNING A BABY COULD TAKE PRIORITY OVER PLANNING A FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE.



TONI, BE REASONABLE! I'VE ALREADY COMMITTED MYSELF TO THIS! AND I DO WANT US TO HAVE A BABY, BUT I CAN'T STAND THIS CONSTANT PRESSURE!



HEY, CLARICE!

GINGER! HI! HOW ARE YA? THIS IS MY LOVER, TONI.



HI, TONI. SAY, CLARICE, WE JUST HAVE TO GET TOGETHER FOR SOME GOSSIP ABOUT THE CONFERENCE ONE OF THESE DAYS!



I'D LOVE TO. WE COULD GO OUT FOR COFFEE AFTER THE MEETING TUESDAY.

YOU GOT YOURSELF A DATE! SEE YOU THEN... NICE MEETING YOU, TONI.



GINGER, HUH? SHE WAS FLIRTING WITH YOU. WASN'T SHE?



FLIRTING? TONI, WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? I THINK THIS BABY STUFF HAS GONE TO YOUR BRAIN!



AS TONI TAKEN LEAVE OF HER SENSES... OR IS SOMETHING INDEED AFOOT? DON'T MISS THE NEXT GRIPPING EPISODE!



MENU



# FATAL ATTRACTION

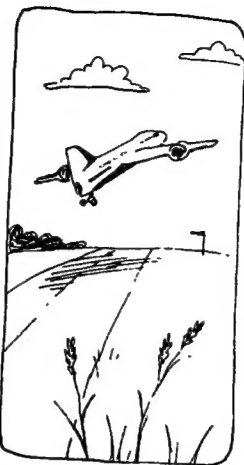
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TONI IS MAKING A SUDDEN TRIP TO SAN JUAN FOR HER GRAND-MOTHER'S FUNERAL.

THE WORST THING IS, MY ABUELITA WAS THE ONLY SANE MEMBER OF MY ENTIRE FAMILY.

GATE 78

I KNOW, HONEY. CALL ME IF THEY START TO DRIVE YOU CRAZY. I WISH I COULD COME WITH YOU.



THAT EVENING, CLARICE ATTENDS A MEETING OF THE ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE.

WE STILL NEED ANOTHER SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETER FOR THE PANEL DISCUSSION, "LESBIANS AND GAYMEN WORKING TOGETHER: TACTICAL TEAM OR TOTAL TRAVESTY?"

NO, WE DON'T. MARIA SAID SHE COULD DO IT.

BUT WE ALREADY HAVE A WOMAN SIGNING. WE NEED A MAN FOR PARITY, ESPECIALLY ON THIS PANEL!

MATTERS DRAG ON...

BUT WE ONLY HAVE ONE MALE INTERPRETER, AND HE'S DOING THE MEN-SUAL, SALACIOUS, & SAFE IN THE SAME TIME-SLOT!



AFTER AN APPARENT ETERNITY, THE MEETING ADJOURNS.

HI, STRANGER... ARE WE STILL ON FOR COFFEE?

SURE, GINGER! LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!



SO, WHAT'S THE STORY WITH YOU AND TONI? ARE YOU MARRIED, OR WHAT?

MARRIED? THAT'S KIND OF A STRONG TERM. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SIX YEARS, SHE'S HELPING TO PUT ME THROUGH LAWSCHOOL, AND WE'RE TALKING ABOUT HAVING A BABY... I WOULDN'T SAY WE WERE MARRIED, EXACTLY.



I'LL BE UPFRONT WITH YOU, CLARICE. I THINK YOU'RE REALLY CUTE. IF YOU'RE NOT AVAILABLE, I WON'T PURSUE IT. ARE YOU AND TONI MONOGAMOUS?

UH... (CHOKE!) THAT CERTAINLY IS UPFRONT! WELL, WE'VE NEVER REALLY DEFINED OUR RELATIONSHIP. I GUESS WE'RE NOT MONOGAMOUS, AND I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE YOURSELF!

WHAT AM I DOING? SHE SAYS SHE'S AVAILABLE... THAT MEANS IT'S OKAY... RIGHT?

WHAT AM I DOING? SHE REALLY IS HOT... NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE, INNOCENT AFFAIR... IS THERE?



# FRIENDLY ADVICE

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I'M GLAD YOU COULD COME OVER MO. I REALLY NEED TO TALK TO YOU... UH... WHAT WOULD YOU THINK IF I HAD AN AFFAIR WITH GINGER?

WHAT?

I'M SO ATTRACTED TO HER! I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT... IT'S LIKE... GRAVITY... FATE... DESTINY!

WHAT?!



SHE FEELS THE SAME TOWARD ME. WE TALKED ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT.

CLARICE, WHAT ABOUT TONI?

WHAT ABOUT HER? THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MY COMMITMENT TO TONI! IN FACT, I THINK IT WOULD BE UNHEALTHY FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP IF I DIDN'T ACT ON THESE FEELINGS FOR GINGER! BESIDES, TONI'S STILL IN PUERTO RICO.

WHOA, CLARICE... CLARICE? ARE YOU IN THERE, OR HAVE YOU BEEN POSSESSED BY AN ALIEN?



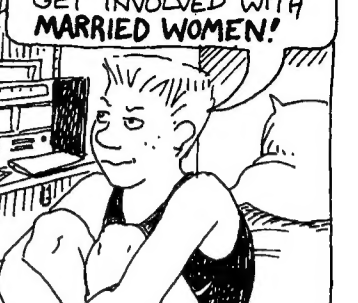
MEANWHILE...

YEAH, I KNOW SHE'S INVOLVED WITH TONI. BUT I DON'T WANT TO MARRY HER, I JUST WANT TO SLEEP WITH HER!

WELL, I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM FOLLOWING THEIR SEXUAL INCLINATIONS, BUT...

EXACTLY! IT WOULD BE WRONG TO REPRESS THESE FEELINGS FOR CLARICE!

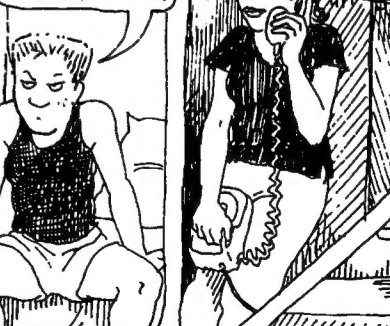
LISTEN TO ME, GINGER! I SPEAK FROM EXPERIENCE. IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO GET INVOLVED WITH MARRIED WOMEN!



BUT LOIS, THEY'RE NOT MONOGAMOUS! THAT'S ONE OF THE THINGS I ADMIRE ABOUT CLARICE. SHE DOESN'T JUST THEORIZE, SHE LIVES HER CONVICTIONS!

WE'RE HAVING DINNER TONIGHT. WHAT LOOK SHOULD I GO FOR? SCHOLARLY OR SEDUCTIVE?

HOW ABOUT SELF-DESTRUCTIVE?



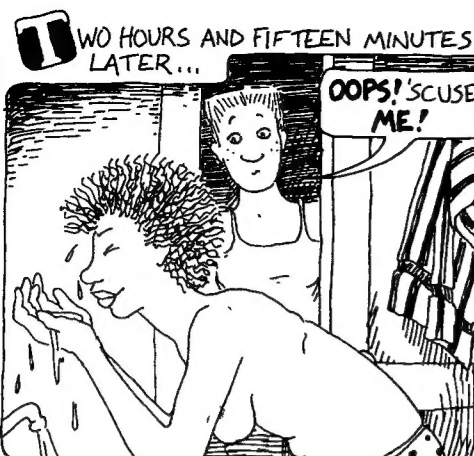
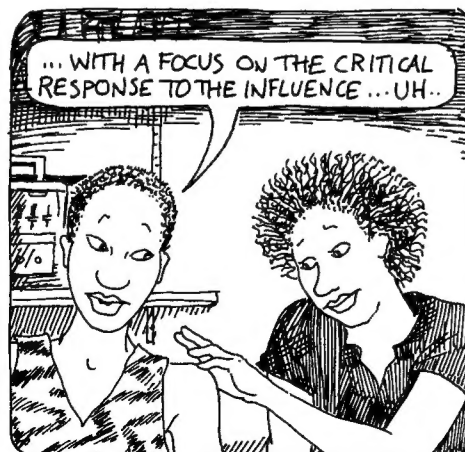
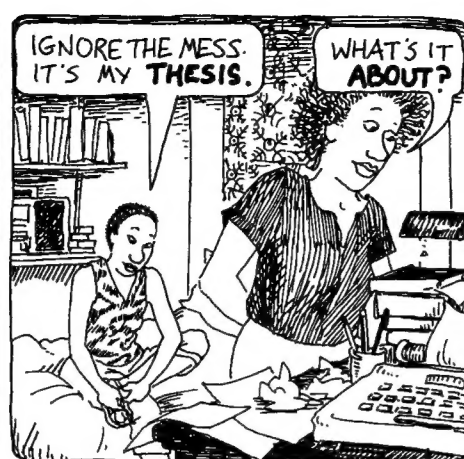


# CLOSE-EN-COUNTER

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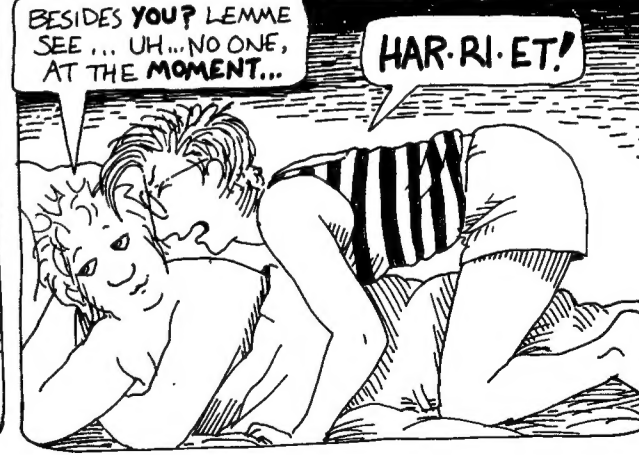
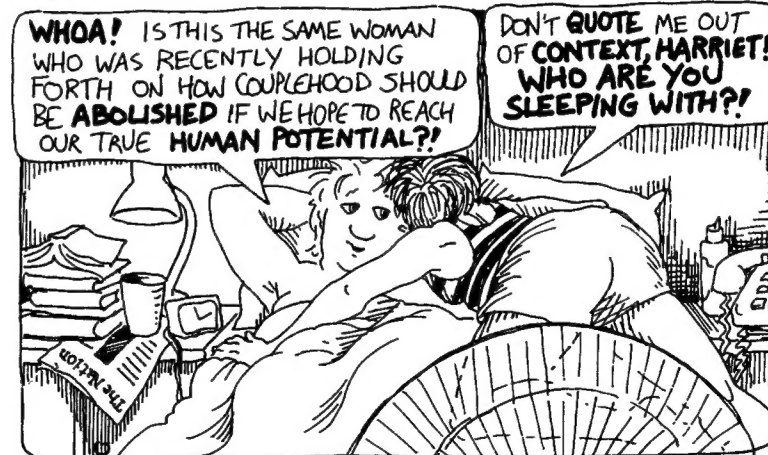
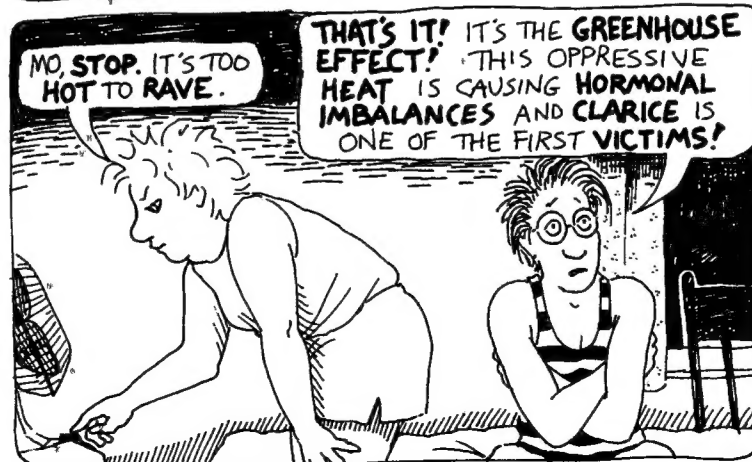
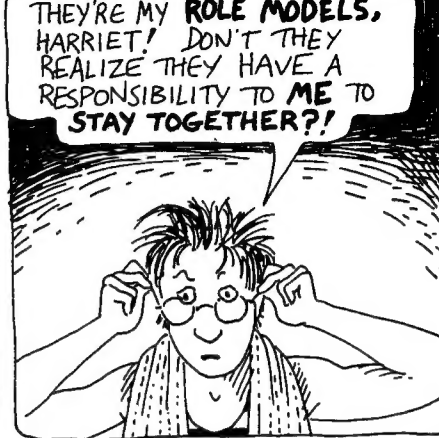
HEEDLESS OF THEIR FRIENDS' ADVICE, CLARICE AND GINGER FIND THEMSELVES AT THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

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# In the HEAT of the NIGHT

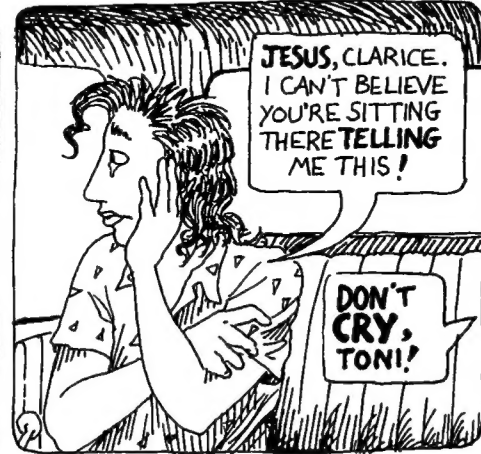
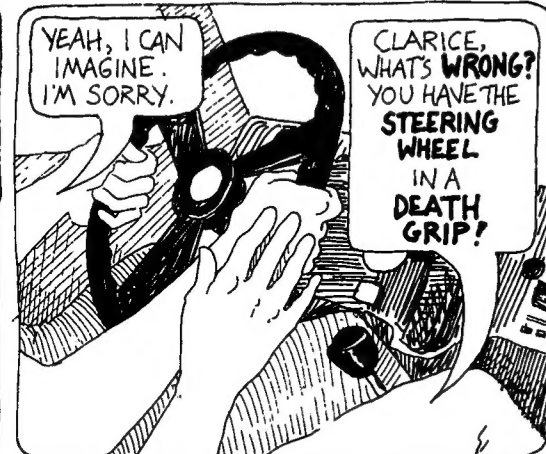
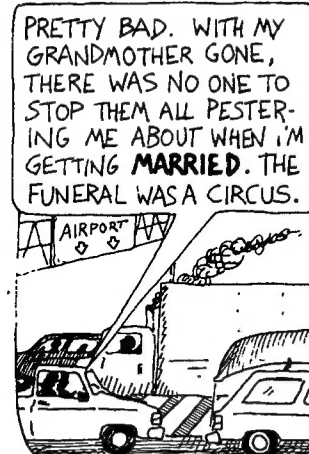
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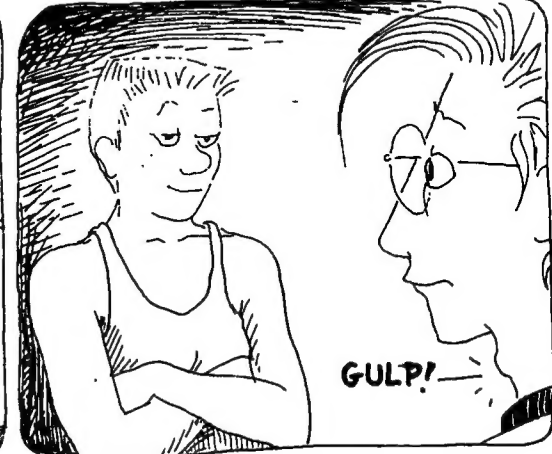
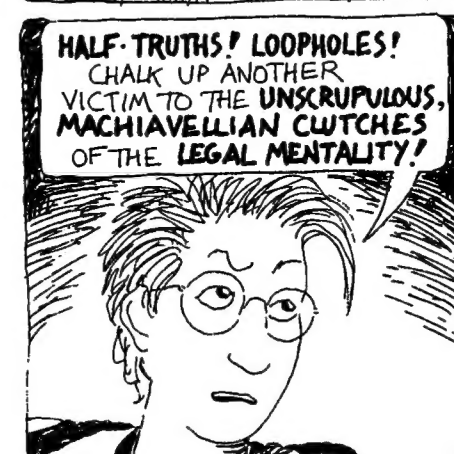
# THE INTERROGATION

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# ...And Nothing But The Truth

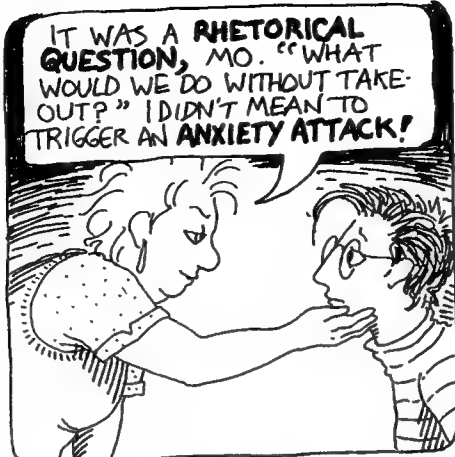
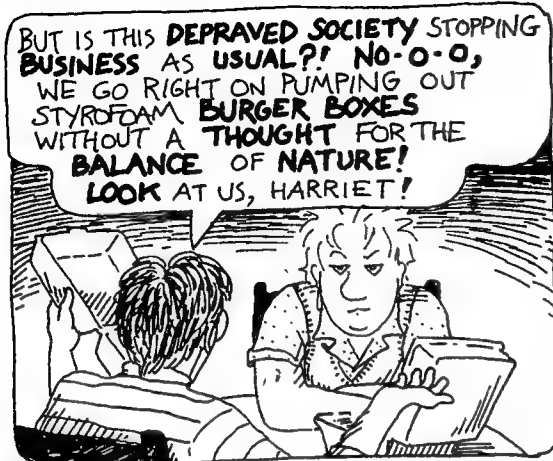
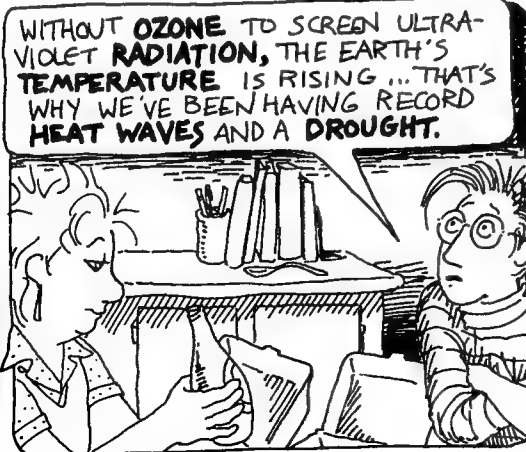
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# Naturally Reasonable

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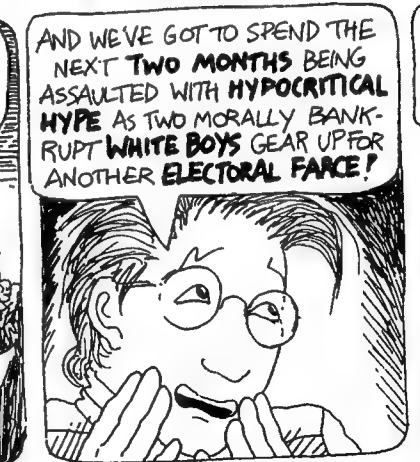


# The BIG PICTURE

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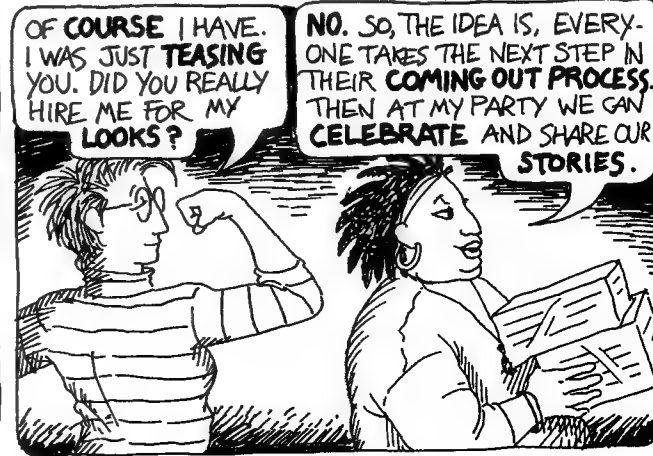
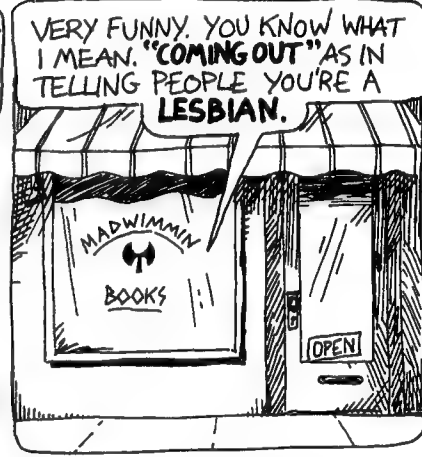
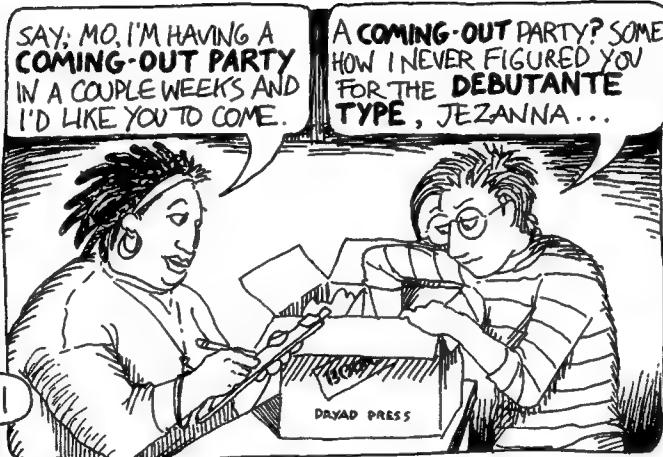
ON A LONG WALK WITH CLARICE, MO RELIES ON HER INBORN TACT AND ADROIT INTERPERSONAL SKILLS TO BROACH A DELICATE SUBJECT...





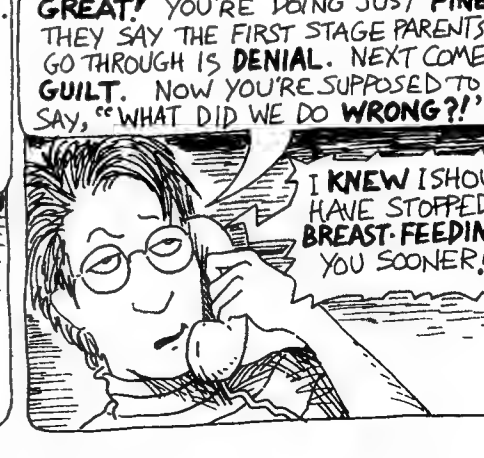
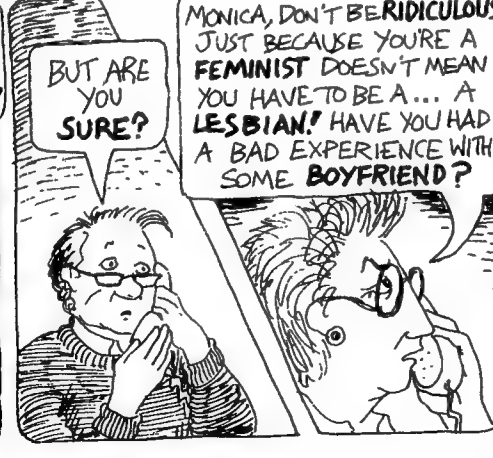
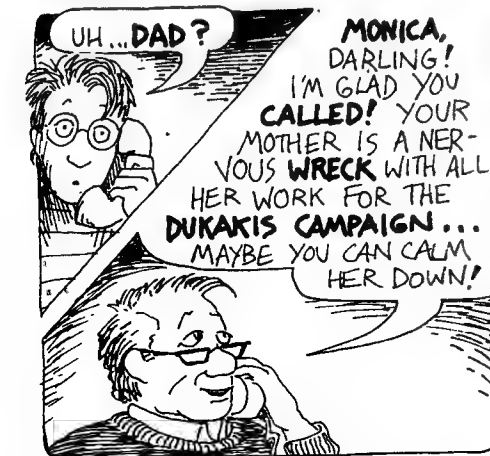
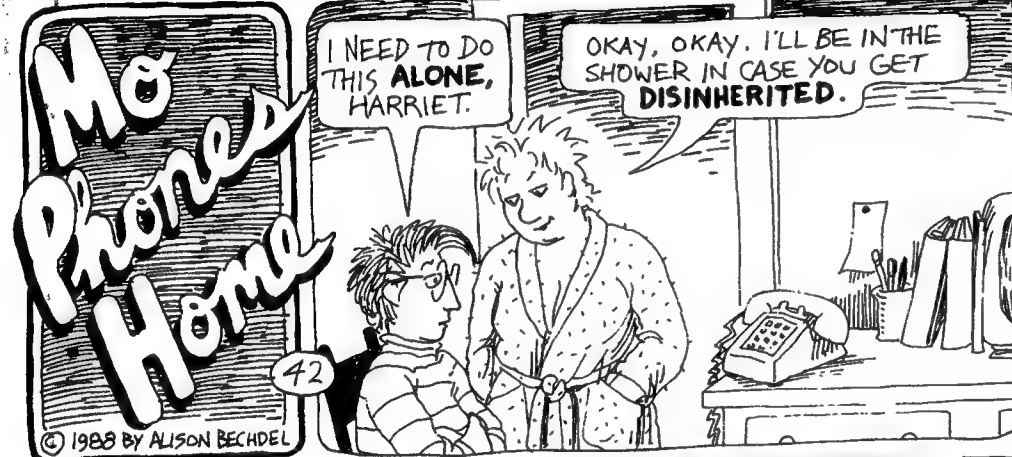
# Jezanna comes down The Gauntlet

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# No Phone Home

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# Familiar Terms

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AT JEZANNA'S COMING OUT PARTY...

...SO I'M WATCHING TV WITH MY FAMILY AND MY UNCLE SAYS "THOSE GODDAMN QUEERS DESERVE TO GET AIDS." "INCLUDING ME, UNCLE CARL?!" I YELL. YOU COULDA HEARD A POTATO CHIP DROP!

...WHEN I TOLD MY MOM I WAS A DYKE, SHE ASKED IF I KNEW ANY NICE OLDER WOMEN I COULD FIX HER UP WITH...

SO MO! HOW'D IT GO?

OH, WELL... JEEZ. NOTHING DRAMATIC, REALLY. I MEAN, THEY DIDN'T OFFER TO JOIN ME ON THE NEXT GAY PRIDE MARCH, BUT THEY DIDN'T SEND A DEPROGRAMMER AFTER ME EITHER.

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN. SOMETIMES I WISH MY PARENTS WOULD GO AHEAD AND THREATEN ME WITH DAMNATION INSTEAD OF THE WAY THEY AVOID ANY DISCUSSION OF MY PERSONAL LIFE.

ISN'T THAT A DRAG? I'M OUT TO MY PARENTS, AND THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN MY LIFE AT ALL. THEY WON'T EVEN ASK ME HOW I'M DOING... I GUESS THEY'RE SCARED I'LL SAY "OH, MOM, DAD! I'VE BEEN HAVING THE BEST CUNNILINGUS!"

I DUNNO, MO. I THINK ED & VIRGINIA WILL COME AROUND... REMEMBER, THEY WERE PROBABLY IN A STATE OF SHOCK.

YEAH, SURE. EVENTUALLY THEY'LL TOLERATE ME... ACCEPT ME EVEN, BUT BIG DEAL, Y'KNOW?

YEAH. WHEN I CAME OUT TO MY PARENTS, THEY SAID, "WE'LL ALWAYS ACCEPT YOU, HARRIET." AND I SAID, "DAMN RIGHT YOU WILL, BUT I WANT MORE THAN THAT!"

HARRIET CALLS HER PARENTS BY THEIR FIRST NAMES... THEY USED TO LIVE IN A COMMUNE... VERY GROOVY.

"JERRY, SUZANNE," I SAID, "I EXPECT YOU TO SUPPORT AND UNDERSTAND MY LESBIANISM, NOT JUST 'ACCEPT' IT LIKE SOME CURSE YOU HAVE TO LIVE WITH." AND THEY DO! I BET THEY'VE DONE MORE FOR GAY RIGHTS THAN I HAVE.

AWRIGHT! I COULD USE SOME PARENTS LIKE THAT! THINK THEY'D ADOPT ME?

MAYBE. BUT THEN EVERY YEAR THEY'D CRASH YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY, PASSING AROUND PICTURES OF WHAT A CUTE BABY DYKE YOU WERE, AND PLAYING "FILLING UP AND SPILLING OVER" AGAIN AND AGAIN ON THE STEREO.

NO-O-O! HOW EMBARRASSING! I GUESS YOU CAN'T WIN, HUH?

# JUST DESERT

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ON THE RARE OCCASION OF THEIR ALL HAVING NOTHING BETTER TO DO, OUR HOUSEMATES GINGER, LOIS, & SPARROW SPEND AN EVENING TOGETHER.

WHAT A ROTTEN MOVIE. WANNA GET SOME DESSERT?

SURE.

OK, BUT I JUST WANT SOME TEA.

I'LL HAVE A CHOCOLATE ORGASM AND A CUP OF COFFEE

UH... I'LL HAVE THE TRIPLE TASMANIAN DEVILSFOOD DELIGHT AND AN ESPRESSO.

MINT TEA AND A BRAN MUFFIN, PLEASE.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE OFF CAFFEINE, GINGER!

AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALLERGIC TO CHOCOLATE

I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU GUYS EAT THIS STUFF IF YOU KNOW IT'S BAD FOR YOU! DON'T COMPLAIN TO ME ABOUT YOUR HEAD-ACHES AND INSOMNIA.

A SHORT WHILE LATER...

SO GINGER, I HAVEN'T RUN INTO CLARICE IN OUR BATHROOM LATELY... WHAT'S UP?

WE'RE NOT SEEING EACH OTHER... TURNS OUT SHE SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATED HOW NONMONOGAMOUS HER SCENE WITH TONI IS.

AW, GINGER, THAT'S TOO BAD... I'M SORRY. IN FACT, I'M SO SORRY THAT I WILL NOBLY REFRAIN FROM SAYING 'I TOLD YOU SO.'

YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW. BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS. LIKE I TOLD YOU, I JUST WANTED TO SLEEP WITH HER, NOT GET MARRIED.

UH-OH! LOOK OUT! IT'S GINGER, WOMAN OF STEEL... AND SHE'S INVULNERABLE! C'MON, ADMIT IT! YOU'RE HURT! CAN I HAVE ANOTHER TEENSY TASTE OF YOUR CAKE?

ACTUALLY, I'M KIND OF RELIEVED IT DIDN'T WORK OUT. I'M SICK & TIRED OF ROMANTIC MELODRAMA. THERE ARE OTHER THINGS TO LIFE, AFTER ALL.

YOUR PROBLEM, GINGER, IS THAT YOU'VE NEVER WORKED THROUGH YOUR BREAK-UP WITH PHYLLIS. YOU SHOULD JOIN A THERAPY GROUP. ARE YOU GONNA FINISH THAT, LO?

TAKE IT. I'M STARTING TO HALLUCINATE.

SPARROW, YOU WOULD RECOMMEND A THERAPY GROUP IF I HAD HEMORRHOIDS! NOPE, I'M GOING TO TRY SOME GOOD OLD-FASHIONED CELIBACY AND FINISH MY THESIS!

YOU TELL HER, GINGER! C'MON, WE BETTER HURRY HOME BEFORE WE CRASH!

YEAH, I FEEL KINDA SPEEDY... D'YOU THINK THEY PUT SUGAR IN THE BRAN MUFFINS HERE?



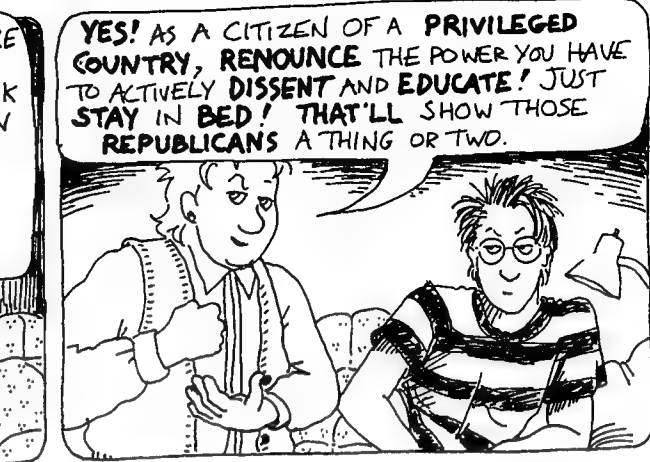
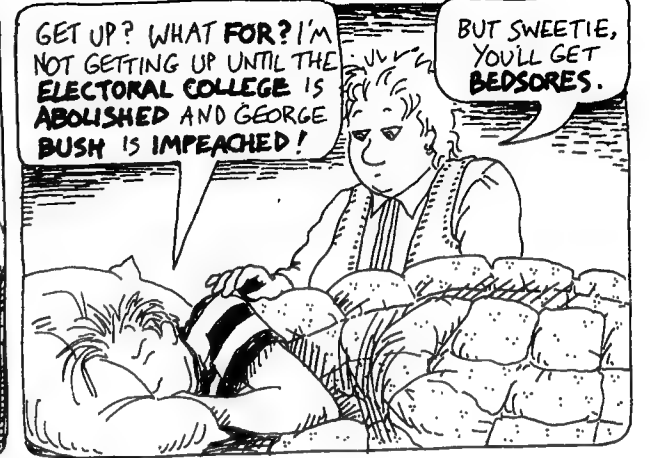
# Tête à Tête

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# CIVIC DUTY

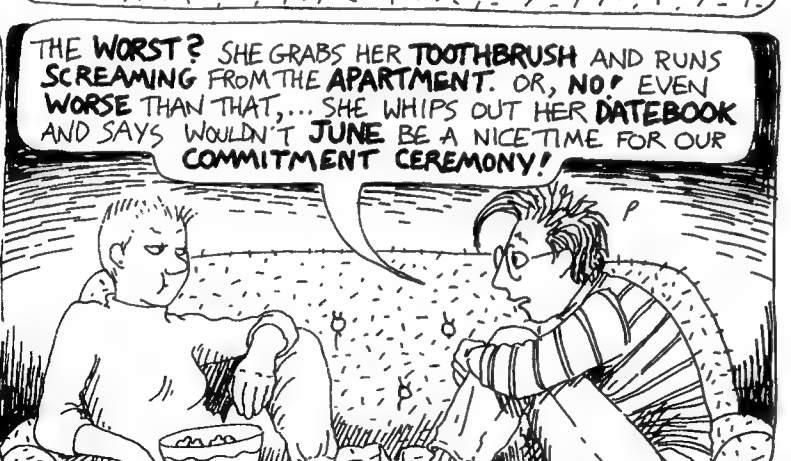
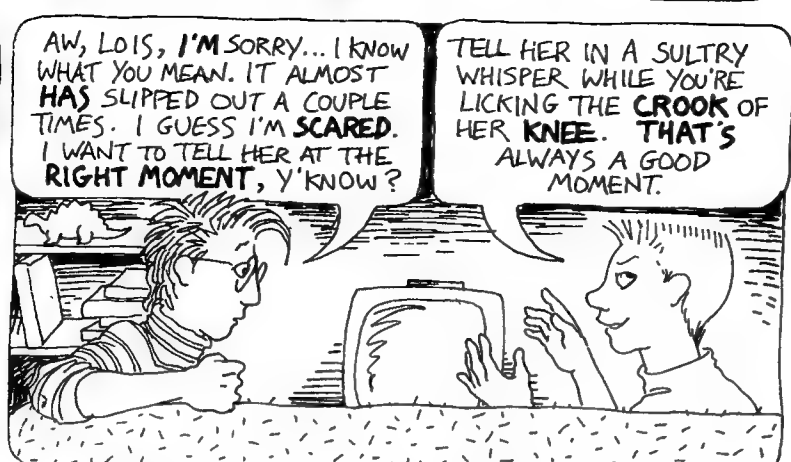
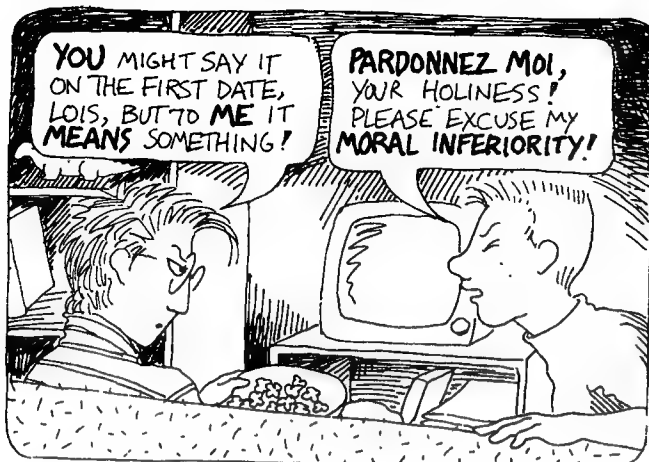
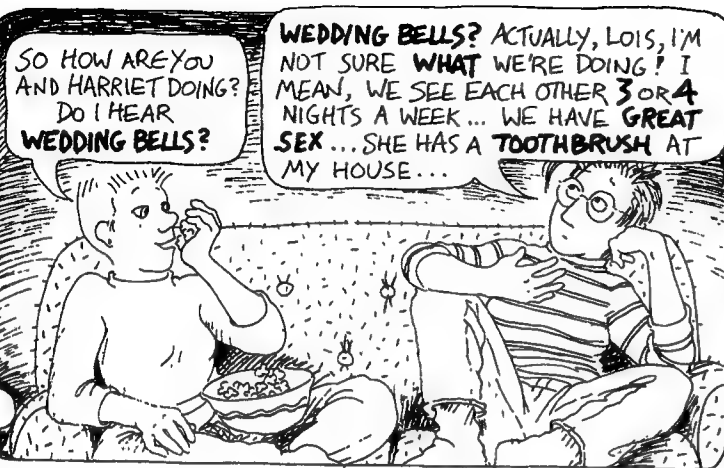
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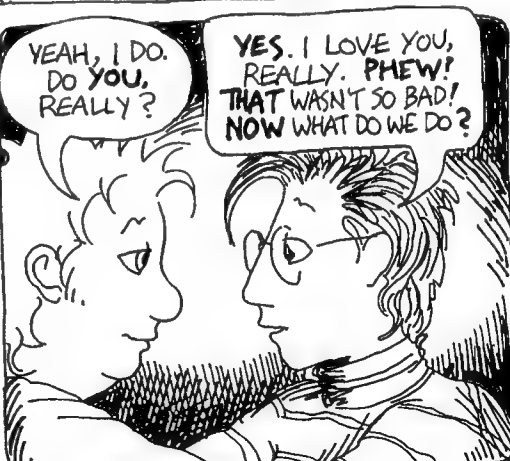
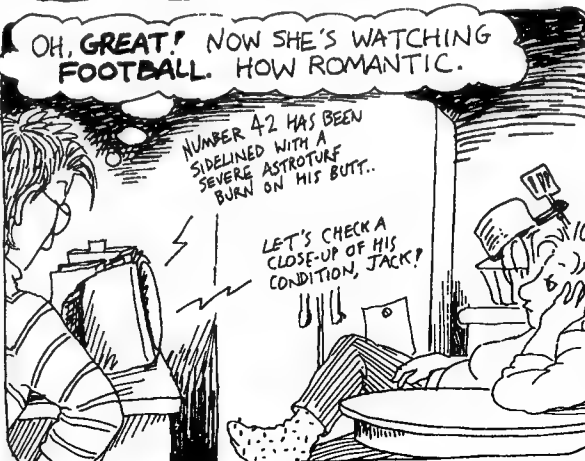
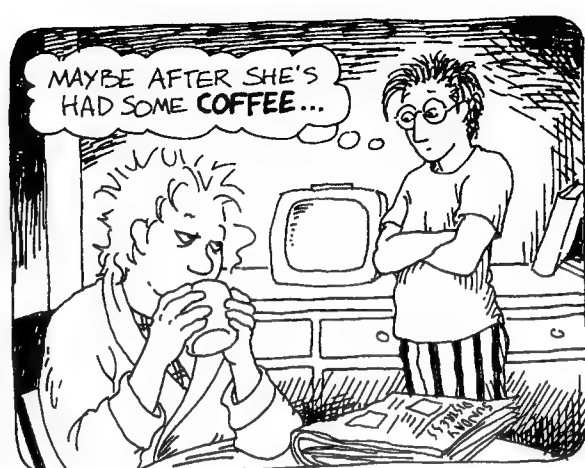
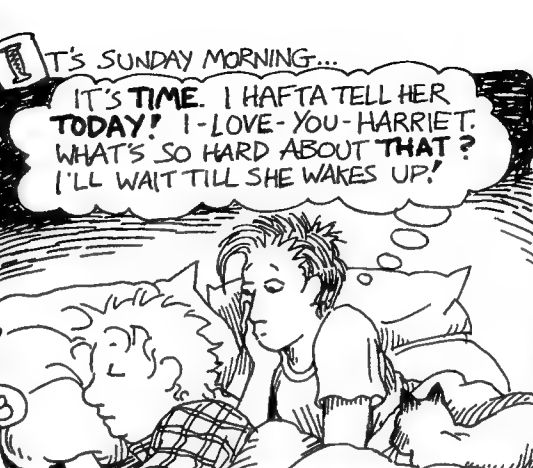
MO & LOIS INDULGE  
IN A SPOT OF  
**girl  
talk**  
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**3  
little  
words**  
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# LOIS IN ACTION

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ONE AFTERNOON AT THE BOOKSTORE...

THANKS FOR STOPPING BY, EMMA, AND SAY HELLO TO JEROME FOR ME.

OKAY, JEZANNA. IT WAS NICE SEEING YOU, AND THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!



BYE.

BYE!

JEZANNA! HOW COME YOU DIDN'T INTRODUCE ME?! COULDN'T YOU SEE ME LEERING?!

GIRL, DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

WHY NOT? YOU'RE NOT SEEING HER, ARE YOU? WHO IS SHE? AN EX?

FORGET IT! SHE'S GOT A HUSBAND AND TWO KIDS!

OH YEAH? WELL SHE WAS SURE DOING SOME HEAVY BROWSING IN THE LESBIAN SECTION! WHAT'D SHE BUY?



NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! GIMME THAT!

AH HAH! "THE COMING-OUT STORIES" "SURPASSING THE LOVE OF MEN," "LESBIAN SEX"... LOOKS LIKE YOUR FRIEND IS DOING SOME, UH... RESEARCH, RIGHT?

LOIS, I'M SERIOUS. STAY AWAY. I'VE KNOWN EMMA FOR YEARS NOW, EVER SINCE I WAS A STUDENT OF HER HUSBAND'S. YOU'VE HEARD ME TALK ABOUT JEROME, MY BLACK STUDIES PROFESSOR?

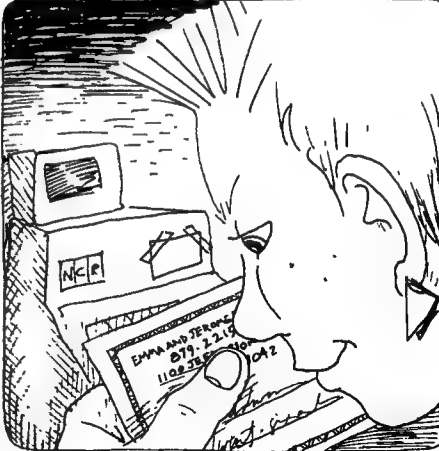
OH, SO SHE'S MARRIED TO SAINT JEROME. HUH?



YEAH, WELL... NOW SHE THINKS MAYBE SHE'S A DYKE AFTER ALL... SHE'S IN A VERY VULNERABLE STATE, AND THE LAST THING SHE NEEDS IS YOU COMING ON TO HER LIKE A TON OF BRICKS.

OKAY, OKAY! I CAN TAKE A HINT!

GOOD.



# POETIC LICENSE

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LOIS ACCOMPANIES GINGER TO A READING BY A RENOWNED LESBIAN POET AT THE UNIVERSITY.

WHY AM I DOING THIS?! I HATE POETRY! I MUST BE REALLY BORED!

YOU'RE SUCH A PHILISTINE, LOIS! A LITTLE CULTURE WILL DO YOU GOOD!

YEAH, SURE. SITTING AROUND WITH A BUNCH OF PSEUDO-INTELLECTUALS PRETENDING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SOME WACKO POET IS EMOTING ABOUT HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME!



HEY, LOOK! THERE'S EMMA, THE WOMAN I TOLD YOU ABOUT FROM THE BOOKSTORE! SHE'S SITTING OVER THERE WITH JEZANNA!



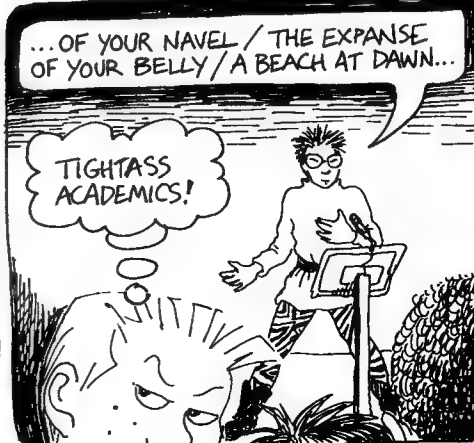
SHHH! IT'S STARTING!



I LICK THE DELICATE PEARL...

SHE'S MARRIED TO A MAN, BUT JEZANNA SAYS SHE'S JUST COMING OUT! ISN'T SHE HOT?!

DO YOU MIND?! SOME OF US CAME TO LISTEN!



...OF YOUR NAVEL / THE EXPANSE OF YOUR BELLY / A BEACH AT DAWN...

TIGHTASS ACADEMICS!



MAYBE I CAN MAKE SOME EYE CONTACT.

...YOUR DESIRE A TIDAL POOL...



WHOA! SHE'S... SHE'S STARING RIGHT AT ME! CAREFUL, LOIS, DON'T LOSE YOUR COOL!

...RIPE, LIQUID CORAL...



OMIGOD! WAS THAT A WINK?! DID SHE REALLY JUST WINK AT ME?

...AS THE WAVES CREST, SUBSIDE...



... LAP / AT THE EDGE. THE LINGERING SCENT / OF SEAWEED.



WELL, YOU CAN'T CALL THAT POEM DRY AND INTELLECTUAL! SHE HAS A WAY OF REALLY BRINGING HER SUBJECT ALIVE, DON'T YOU THINK?

I DIDN'T HEAR A WORD SHE SAID... BUT MY OPINION OF POETRY READINGS HAS DEFINITELY IMPROVED.





**E**XCITED BY A STEAMY BOUT OF OCULAR FLIRTATION DURING A POETRY READING, LOIS SEEKS OUT HER INAMORATA AT THE RECEPTION AFTERWARDS.



LOIS, YOU SAID JEZANNA TOLD YOU TO LEAVE THIS WOMAN ALONE! I DON'T THINK SHE'S GONNA TAKE KINDLY TO YOU FORCING YOURSELF ON THEM!



OH, HI, GINGER. HI LOIS. I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AT A POETRY READING.

WELL JEZ, I THINK IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO TRY NEW EXPERIENCES... IT KEEPS LIFE EXCITING, DON'T YOU AGREE?



MERCHANDISING CONSULTANT? LOIS, YOU'RE A CLERK! LISTEN, EMMA, I REALLY HAVE TO GET HOME AND WALK MY DOG. LET'S GO!

OKAY. LET ME JUST FINISH THIS. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.



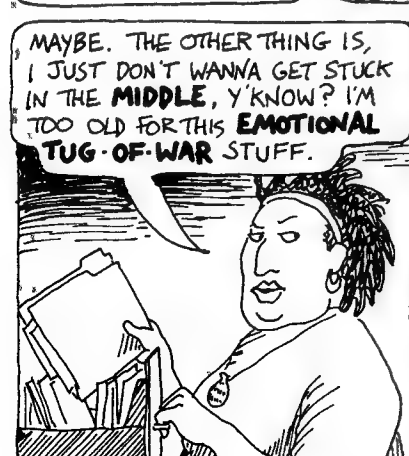
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T ARREST YOU. THAT'S A LOVELY EARRING YOU'RE WEARING.

EMMA! I HATE TO DRAG YOU AWAY LIKE THIS, BUT IF WE DON'T LEAVE RIGHT NOW, I'LL HAVE TO FACE FIFI'S REVENGE. NICE SEEING YOU, GINGER! GNIGHT!



JEZANNA, THE MORE YOU TELL LOIS TO STAY AWAY FROM YOUR FRIEND EMMA, THE MORE INTERESTED SHE GETS! YOU KNOW HOW LOIS IS!

YEAH, I DO KNOW HOW LOIS IS! THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF HER RELATIONSHIPS IS THREE NIGHTS! I JUST DON'T WANT EMMA TO GET HURT.



OH, YEAH, I FORGOT. YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH EMMA'S HUSBAND, TOO.



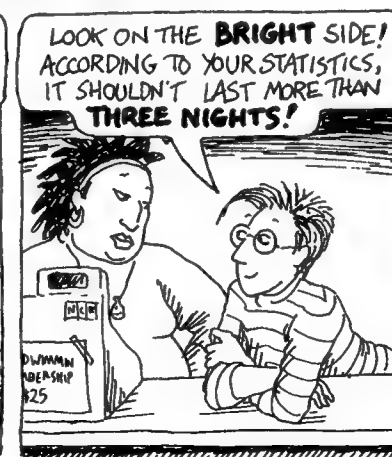
UH-OH. DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT THINGS JUST MIGHT BE OUT OF YOUR HANDS.



JEZ, I'M GONNA TAKE MY BREAK NOW. EMMA & I ARE RUNNING NEXT DOOR FOR COFFEE. I'LL BE BACK IN 15 MINUTES.



HELL-BENT IS MORE LIKE IT. GUESS I JUST GOTTA LET NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE.

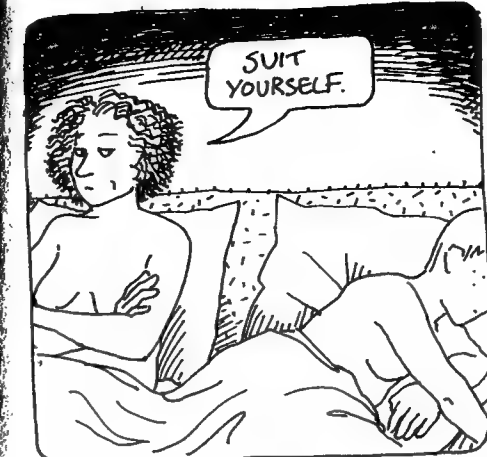
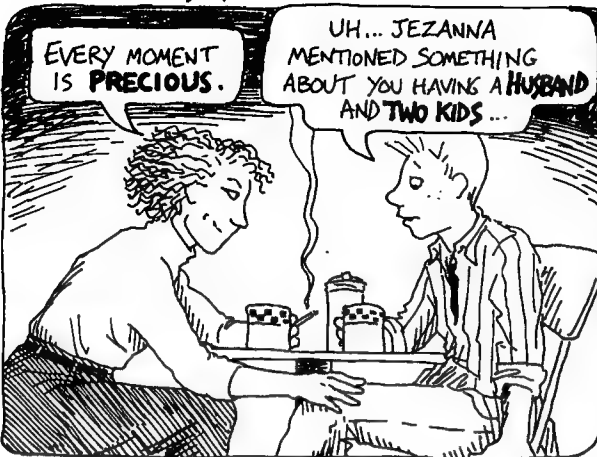


\$5 SAYS LESS THAN A MONTH. WELL... I'M NOT A GAMBLING KINDA GAL AS A RULE... BUT \$2.50 AND YOU'RE ON.





LOIS TAKES A QUICK BREAK FROM THE BOOKSTORE...

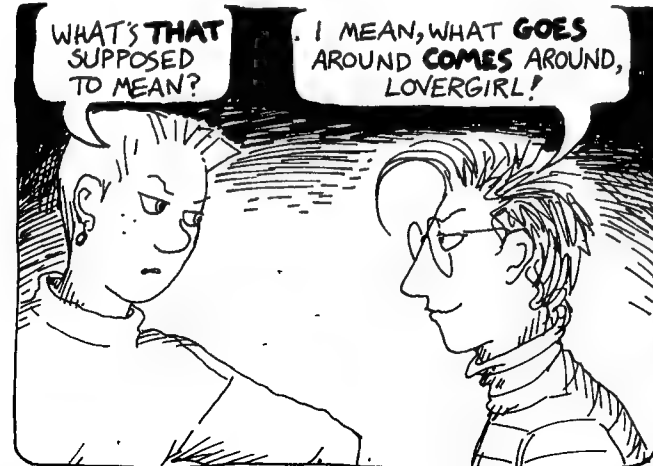
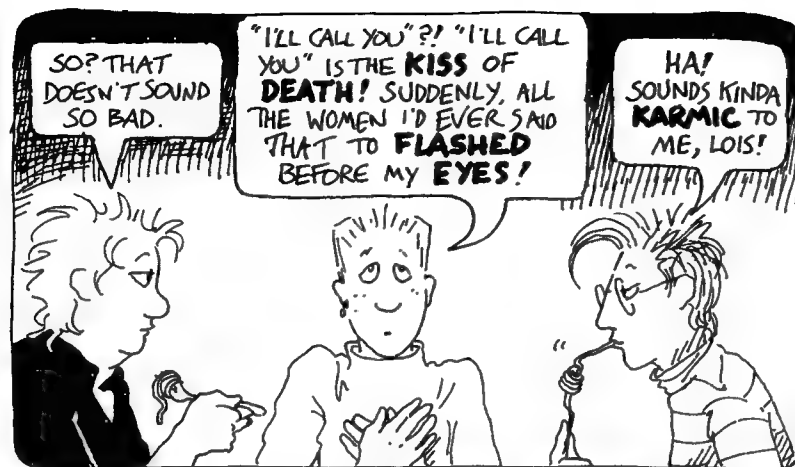




# As The TABLES TURN

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# FIX IT UP

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# THE PROPOSAL

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SO CALL A CHIROPRACTOR IN THE MORNING.



I MISS YOU.



AW, TONI! THIS IS SO NICE! YOU FEEL SO GOOD!

YOU TOO. WHAT HAPPENED TO US, CLARICE? WHERE DID WE GO WRONG?



WELL, LEMME SEE... I THINK EVERYTHING STARTED TO GO WRONG WHEN YOU DECIDED WE SHOULD HAVE A BABY.



OH, IS THAT RIGHT? WELL AS I RECALL, EVERYTHING STARTED TO GO WRONG WHEN YOU WERE WORKING ON THE CONFERENCE MORNING, NOON, AND LET'S NOT FORGET NIGHT, WITH GINGER!



TONI, I WAS FEELING SO PRESSURED ABOUT MAKING A COMMITMENT TO YOU... SLEEPING WITH GINGER WAS JUST A WAY TO BLOW OFF SOME STEAM!

I UNDERSTAND, BUT I CAN'T LIVE LIKE THAT, CLARICE.



I KNOW. ME NEITHER. IN FACT, I'VE BEEN THINKING MAYBE WE SHOULD... UM... YOU KNOW... GET MARRIED.



WHAAAT? ARE YOU SERIOUS?

YEAH! I'VE GIVEN IT A LOT OF THOUGHT! I WANT US TO HAVE A REAL, TANGIBLE COMMITMENT! A CEREMONY & EVERYTHING!



SLEEPING ON THE COUCH HAS DONE PERMANENT DAMAGE TO YOUR BRAIN!



WE'LL INVITE ALL OUR FRIENDS... SHOULD WE WEAR GOWNS OR TUXEDOS? WE COULD EVEN GO ON A HONEYMOON...

# HELL HOUSE

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AFTER AN EXHAUSTING DAY IN THE SNAKE PIT OF ACADEME, OUR INTREPID P.H.D. CANDIDATE GINGER RETURNS TO THE SISTERLY BOSOM OF HER COLLECTIVE HOUSEHOLD FOR RESPIRE AND SUSTENANCE.



AM I BEAT? I CAN'T WAIT TO COLLAPSE IN FRONT OF MTV WITH A HUNK OF REHEATED LASAGNE!



DIGGER! HOW'S MY GIRL?! HOW'S MY LITTLE PUP?



YES! HI GIRL! HOWZA WITTLE PUPPY-WUPPY?! ...UH... OOPS...

...AN EXCELLENT WAY TO RECYCLE THEIR PATRIARCHAL SCUM!



SPARROW, WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE LIVING ROOM?

OH, LOIS'S GROUP IS PLOTTING THEIR NEXT ACTION. I THINK THEY WANNA PUT CRUDE OIL IN THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AT EXXON HEADQUARTERS OR SOMETHING. TASTE THIS.



IT'S SORT OF SOUP-LIKE. I THREW SOME LEFTOVERS TOGETHER.



UGH!

YEAH... I GUESSTHAT LASAGNE GAVE IT AN ODD TEXTURE.



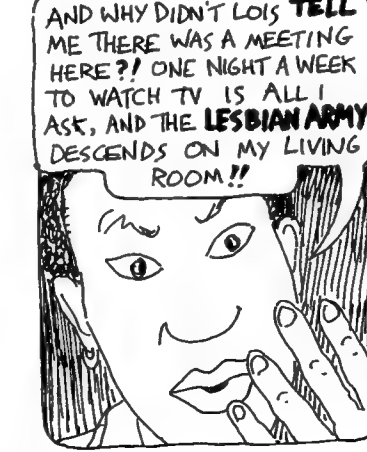
OH, SPARROW! NOT THE LASAGNE! NOW WHAT AM I GONNA EAT?!

PLENTY OF SOUP HERE. GRAB A BOWL.



WHERE?! EVERY EATING VESSEL WE OWN IS IN THE SINK! THIS PLACE IS DISGUSTING!

DON'T LOOK AT ME. I JUST WASHED A BUNCH OF DISHES ON, UM... TUESDAY.



AND WHY DIDN'T LOIS TELL ME THERE WAS A MEETING HERE?! ONE NIGHT A WEEK TO WATCH TV IS ALL I ASK, AND THE LESBIAN ARMY DESCENDS ON MY LIVING ROOM!!



OH. SPEAKING OF TELLING YOU THINGS, MY FRIEND MILKWEED IS COMING FOR A VISIT.

MILKWEED? WHAT KIND OF A NAME IS MILKWEED?



WELL, WHEN I FIRST MET HER SHE WAS PHYLLIS, BUT NOW SHE LIVES ON THIS LESBIAN FARM AND CALLS HERSELF MILKWEED MOONGARDEN.



OH, GREAT. HOW LONG'S SHE STAYING?

Y'KNOW, I FORGOT TO ASK.

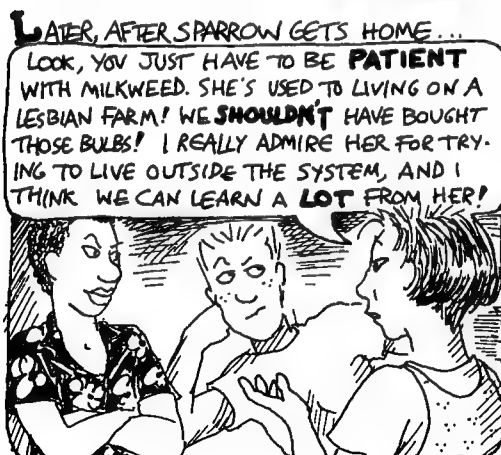


# the VISITATION

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AS WE LOOK IN ON OUR HAPPY HOUSEHOLD, SPARROW'S FRIEND MILKWEED HAS ARRIVED FOR A STAY OF INDETERMINATE LENGTH.

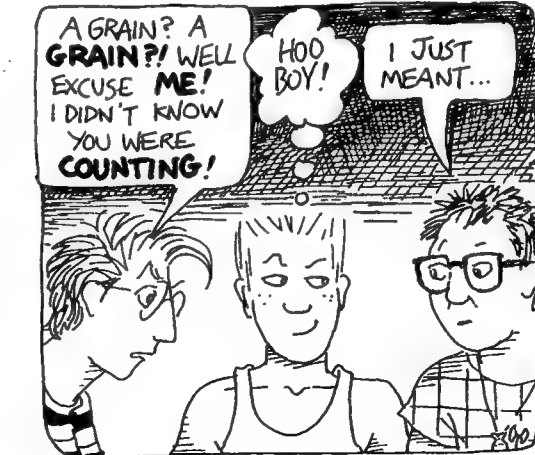
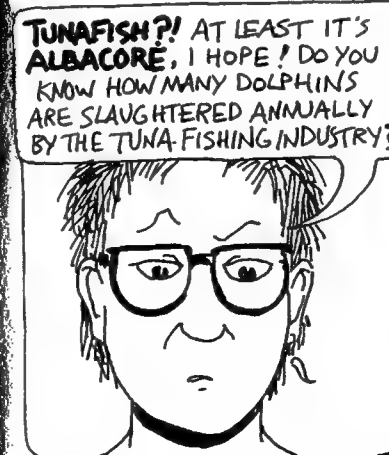


# YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

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OUR FRIEND MILKWEED IS LURKING IN THE KITCHEN WHEN LOIS HAS MO OVER FOR DINNER.





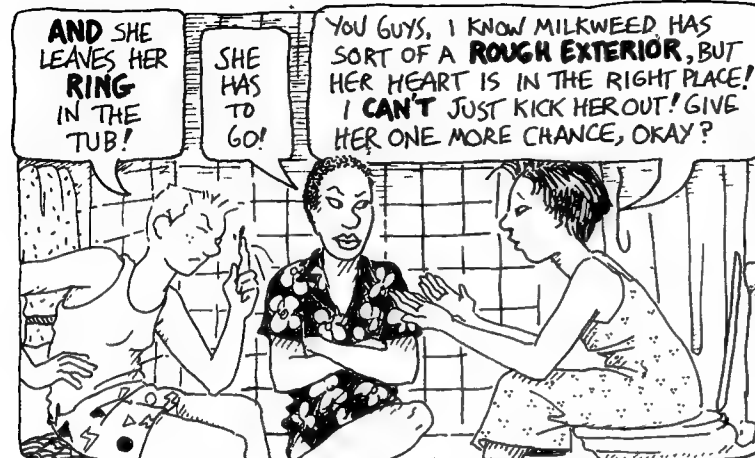
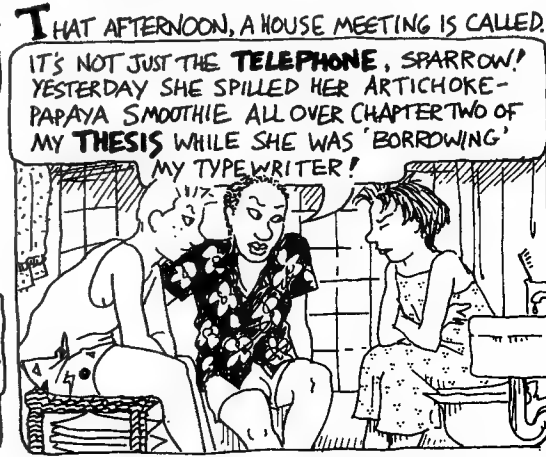
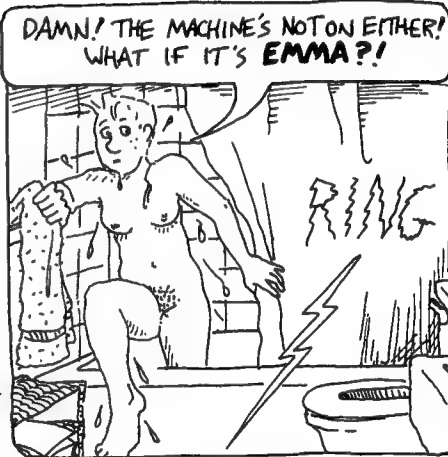
# Sermon on the Couch

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AS THE TRUE NATURE OF OUR HOUSEGUEST MILKWEED UNFOLDS, THE PATIENCE OF HER HOSTESSES IS WEARING THIN!

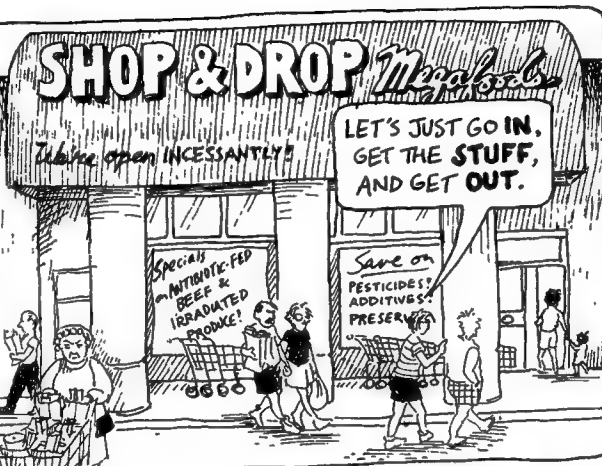
THIS MORNING, SPARROW & GINGER HAVE ALREADY LEFT FOR WORK AND THE PHONE IS ON ITS THIRD RING...

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Public Display of Affection

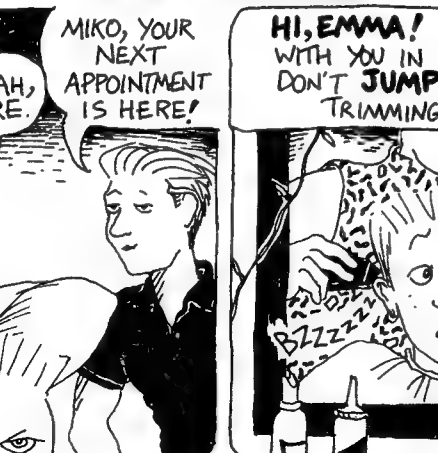
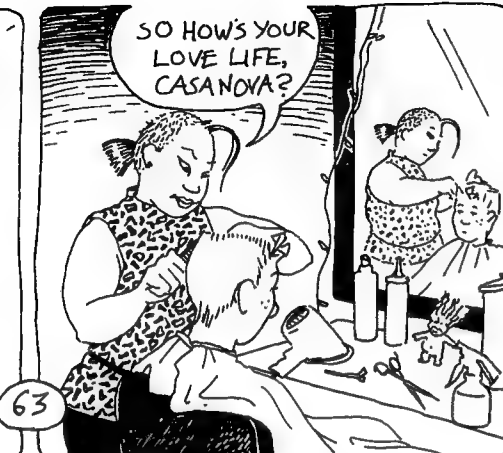
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# at the Salon

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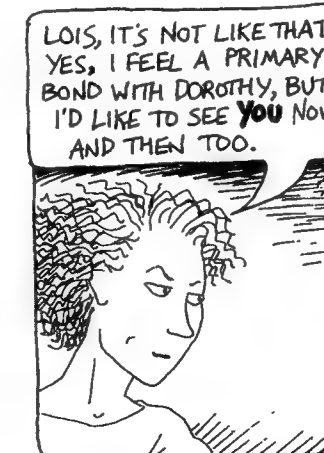
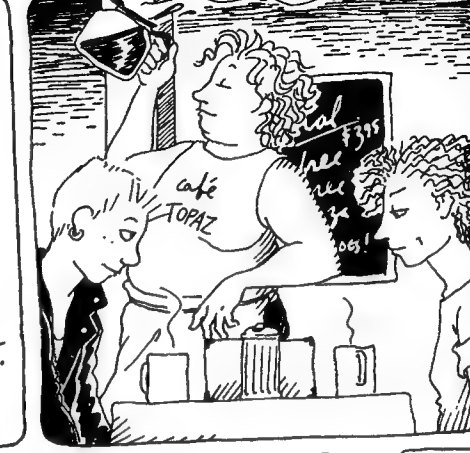


# The Option

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AFTER A SURPRISE ENCOUNTER AT THE HAIR SALON, LOIS HAS ARRANGED TO MEET EMMA FOLLOWING HER APPOINTMENT.

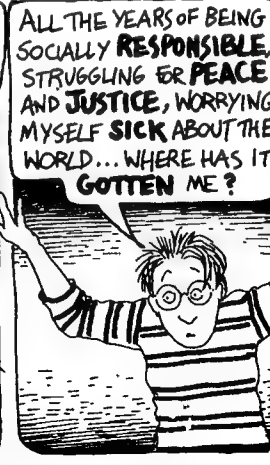
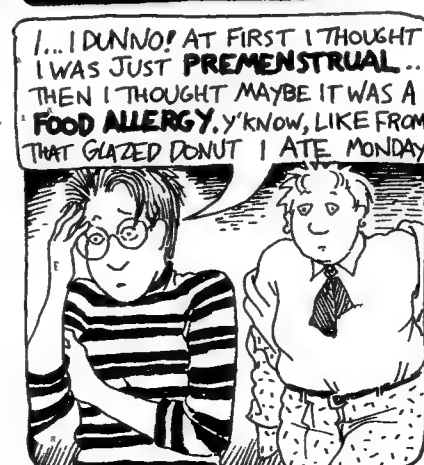
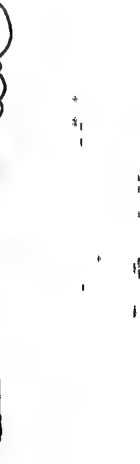
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# The SPAT

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# DRUG CULTURE

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MO'S NOT FEELING QUITE HERSELF LATELY.

HI, MO! C'MON IN. WE'RE WATCHING OUR FEARLESS LEADER JUST SAY NO.



HI, GANG.



UH-OH! REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU WATCHED A PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, MO? YOU REALLY BLEW A GASKET.



I'LL BE OKAY. I PROMISE I WON'T THROW ANYTHING THIS TIME.



SHH! LISTEN!



...BEEF UP LAW ENFORCEMENT... BUILD MORE PRISON SPACE...



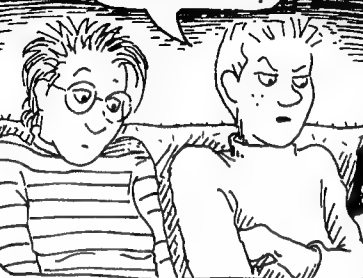
RIGHT ON! THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG! WHAT THIS NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS IS A GOOD JAIL!



...AND TO COMBAT THE DRUG LORDS WHERE THEY LIVE, I PROPOSE SENDING 2 BILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY AID TO COLOMBIA, PERU, AND BOLIVIA...



YEAH! AND TAKE THE MONEY FOR IT FROM FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAMS! THAT'LL TEACH THOSE POOR, UNDERPRIVILEGED DRUG ADDICTS A THING OR TWO! RIGHT, MO?



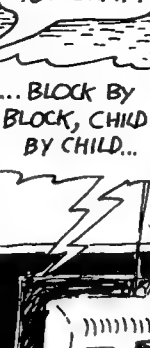
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANYTHING TO DRINK? I COULD GO FOR A CARBONATED BEVERAGE CONTAINING CAFFEINE AND NUTRASWEET.



WHAAT?



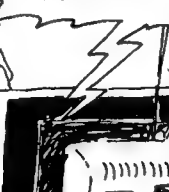
MO, ARE YOU OKAY?



MO! AREN'T YOU GONNA SAY ANYTHING ABOUT HOW BUSH IS MANIPULATING PEOPLE WITH PATRIOTIC PLATITUDES?!



...BLOCK BY BLOCK, CHILD BY CHILD...



OR HOW HE SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT POVERTY AND RACISM HERE INSTEAD OF BLOWING UP SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES?



SOME HIGHLY-PROCESSED, HEAVILY-SALTED SNACK FOOD WOULD ALSO HIT THE SPOT.



SHE FEELS A LITTLE FEVERISH.



MO! AREN'T YOU EVEN GONNA POINT OUT THE IRONY OF A GUY WHO ONCE RAN THE C.I.A., THAT BASTION OF COVERT DRUGS FOR ARMS DEALS, PREACHING AGAINST CRACK?



HEY, THIS GUY IS BORING. LET'S WATCH MTV.



INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS... OR SATURN RETURN?! STAY TUNED!

# Exclusive Engagement

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HOW ABOUT EARLY SPRING? OR JUNE! JUNE WOULD BE ROMANTIC!



OR WE COULD WAIT FOR OUR EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY AND DO IT THEN.



WILL YOU STOP? WE HAVEN'T DECIDED YET WHETHER WE'RE DOING IT AT ALL.



WELL I'VE DECIDED. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS.



CLARICE, EXCUSE ME IF I SEEM HESITANT. ONE MINUTE YOU'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR AND LYING TO ME... THE NEXT, YOU WANT US TO DRESS UP IN WHITE SATIN AND SWEAR EVERLASTING MONOGAMY IN FRONT OF EVERYONE WE KNOW.



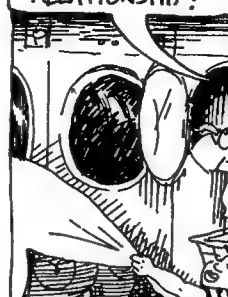
WILL YOU LET GO OF THE THING WITH GINGER? IT WAS NOTHING! DOESN'T THE FACT I'VE BEEN IN THERAPY WITH YOU FOR SIX MONTHS COUNT FOR ANYTHING?



ALL RIGHT. I'M SORRY. BUT WHY THE SUDDEN URGE TO GET MARRIED? A CEREMONY WON'T MAKE US MORE COMMITTED THAN WE ALREADY ARE.



IT'S A RITUAL, TONI! IT MEANS PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP!



IT JUST HAS SO MANY NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS. MARRIAGE IS ABOUT PROPERTY TRANSFER AND CREATING STATE-APPROVED NUCLEAR FAMILIES.



WHY MIMIC IT? WE WON'T EVEN GET A STATE-APPROVED TAX BREAK!



TONI, FOR US IT'LL BE ABOUT LOVE.



NO. FOR YOU IT'S ABOUT FEAR. YOU THINK A COMMITMENT CEREMONY IS SOME KIND OF TICKET TO ETERNAL SECURITY.



LOOK, I JUST WANNA MARRY YOU!



THERE. YOU GOT YOUR PUBLIC RECOGNITION. SATISFIED?



IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SECURITY, TONI... THINK OF THE PRESENTS!



PRESENTS?! WELL WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO?





# at SERIOUS PARTY

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IT'S  
JEZANNA'S  
ANNUAL  
COMING  
OUT  
PARTY,  
AND THE  
GANG'S  
ALL  
HERE!

WELL, MO... YOU CAME  
OUT TO YOUR PARENTS  
LAST YEAR. WHAT'S  
YOUR NEXT STEP  
GONNA BE?

AW, JEZ, I'M SICK & TIRED  
OF COMING OUT! LIFE'S  
HARD ENOUGH WITHOUT  
HAVING TO TELL THE  
PLUMBER YOU'RE A LESBIAN.  
WHY KNOCK OURSELVES OUT?

BECAUSE EVERY TIME  
YOU DON'T COME OUT,  
YOU LET SOMEONE GO  
ON THINKING THEY  
DON'T KNOW ANY GAY  
PEOPLE! IT MAKES  
US INVISIBLE!

BUT IT'S NOBODY'S  
BUSINESS WHO I  
SLEEP WITH!  
IT'S A PERSONAL  
MATTER!

PRETTY TO THINK SO!  
BUT IN THIS CULTURE  
YOU'RE PRESUMED TO BE  
SLEEPING WITH THE OP-  
POSITE SEX UNTIL  
PROVEN OTHERWISE!

DON'T WASTE YOUR BREATH, JEZ. SHE'S  
GOING THROUGH SOME WEIRD REACTIONARY  
PHASE. FRANKLY, I'M WORRIED. SHE  
JUST LET HER GREENPEACE MEMBERSHIP  
LAPSE, AND SUBSCRIBED TO MS. INSTEAD.

THINK OF IT, TONI! WHAT  
BETTER WAY TO COME OUT  
TO OUR FAMILIES THAN BY  
ANNOUNCING OUR  
COMMITMENT CEREMONY!

YEAH, THAT'S WHAT WE  
THOUGHT. BUT MY FATHER  
REFUSED TO COME WITNESS  
A "CRIME AGAINST NATURE."

AT LEAST MY FOLKS  
SENT US A GIFT - TWO  
SETS OF TWIN-SIZE  
SHEETS.

EMMA!

LOIS! I WAS HOPING  
YOU'D BE HERE! I'M  
STILL WAITING FOR  
YOUR ANSWER!

WELL, UM... I'VE DECIDED  
THAT YES, I WOULD  
LIKE TO GO OUT WITH  
YOU CASUALLY. NO  
STRINGS ATTACHED.

OH, GOOD! I'D LIKE YOU  
TO MEET MY PRIMARY  
PARTNER DOROTHY!  
HON, THIS IS LOIS!

OH, REALLY?  
SHE'S A BIT  
YOUNGER THAN  
I EXPECTED.

HOW NICE TO SEE YOU ALL  
GETTING ACQUAINTED! LOIS,  
COULD YOU HELP ME IN THE  
KITCHEN FOR A MINUTE?

I  
OWE  
YOU  
ONE.

IT WAS JUST GOOD HOSTESS  
TECHNIQUE. BELIEVE ME,  
IF THIS WASN'T MY PARTY,  
I'D HAVE GRABBED A  
FRONT-ROW SEAT.

# THE DECISION

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MO  
HAS GROWN  
CONCERNED  
ABOUT THE  
STRANGE  
DULLNESS  
OF HER  
ONCE  
ASTUTE  
POLITICAL  
SENSI-  
BILITIES!

OKAY. GO  
AHEAD.  
I'M READY.

THIS IS A GOOD ONE. IT SAYS  
HERE OLIVER NORTH MIGHT  
RUN FOR CONGRESS. DOES THAT  
GIVE YOU CHILLS OR WHAT?

UH-UH. TRY  
SOMETHING ELSE.

HOW 'BOUT THIS? EXXON SAYS  
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND IS ALL  
CLEANED UP, AND THEY'VE  
STOPPED WORK BECAUSE IT'S  
GETTING COLD OUT.

NOPE. I STILL  
DON'T FEEL  
ANYTHING.

OKAY. THIS ONE'LL GET YOU. THE  
SPACE PROBE GALILEO, JUST  
LAUNCHED BY NASA, IS LOADED  
WITH ENOUGH PLUTONIUM TO  
KILL EVERYONE ON THE PLANET.

THE DANGER OF CONTAMINATION  
FROM THE PROJECT WON'T END TILL  
1992, AFTER THE PROBE WHIZZES  
BACK PAST EARTH AT A HEIGHT  
OF 185 MILES AND A SPEED OF  
30,000 MILES PER HOUR.

DARN! I HAD A TWINGE  
OF MILD CONCERN  
FOR A SECOND THERE,  
BUT I LOST IT.

WHAT'S  
WRONG  
WITH ME?  
I'M SCARED!

YOU'RE SCARED? NEXT THING  
I KNOW YOU'LL BE VOTING  
REPUBLICAN! I MEAN, I LOVE  
YOU MO, BUT I HAVE TO  
DRAW THE LINE SOMEWHERE.

OKAY. THIS IS IT. TIME  
FOR SERIOUS ACTION.  
I'M GONNA DO IT!

WHAT?  
ORDER A  
PIZZA?

NO, HARRIET. I'M  
GOING TO CALL  
A THERAPIST.

WELL THAT'S GREAT,  
SWEETIE! I REALLY  
SUPPORT YOUR  
DECISION!  
FINALLY!

JEEZ. THERE'S A  
LOT OF NAMES HERE!  
HOW WILL I EVER  
FIND THE RIGHT  
ONE? AND WHAT IF  
THEY'RE HOMOPHOBIC?

WHY DON'T YOU  
ASK ONE OF  
YOUR FRIENDS  
FOR SOME  
NAMES?

MAYBE THIS ISN'T  
SUCH A GOOD IDEA  
AFTER ALL. I THINK  
I WAS OVERREACTING.  
IN FACT, I FEEL  
BETTER ALREADY!

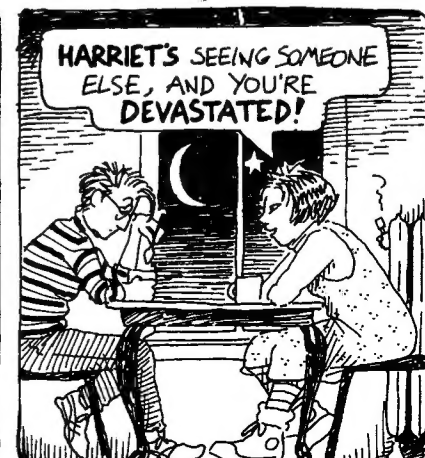
SENATOR  
OLIVER  
NORTH?

I'LL CALL  
SPARROW  
TOMORROW.



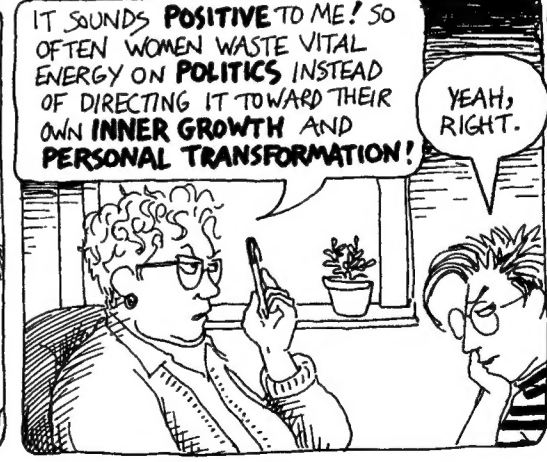
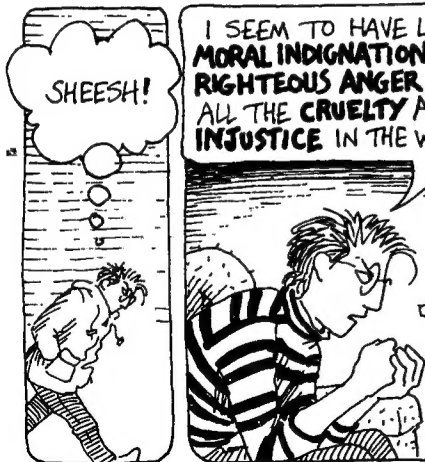
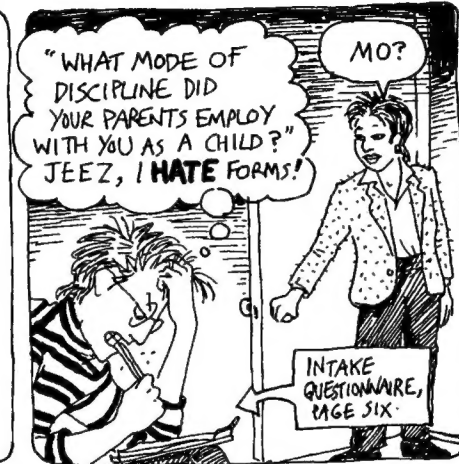
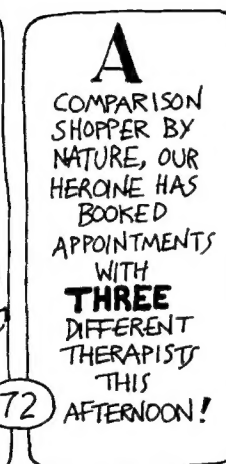
# The Referral

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# THE Quest

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# The Session

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DAUNTED AFTER THREE UNSUCCESSFUL VENTURES, MO DETERMINES TO TRY ONE LAST THERAPIST.

GREAT. THIS ONE'S LATE. IF SHE'S NOT HERE IN ONE MORE MINUTE, I'M BAGGING THE WHOLE DEAL.

AH! YOU MUST BE MO! SORRY I'M LATE! I WAS DOWNTOWN AT A DEMONSTRATION!

YOUR TAXES PAY FOR TORTURE RAPE & MURDER IN EL SALVADOR.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE DECIDED TO BLOCK TRAFFIC AT THE VERY INTERSECTION WHERE I'D PARKED MY CAR? HA HA! COME IN, COME IN!

YOU WERE AT THE EL SALVADOR DEMO? I DIDN'T THINK THERAPISTS DID STUFF LIKE THAT.

AH! WHAT KIND OF 'STUFF' DID YOU THINK WE DO?

UH... I DUNNO. PLAY BRIDGE. HAVE POTLUCKS. GO TO SEMINARS ON CODEPENDENCY. THAT SORT OF THING.

WELL, SOMETIMES I DO THOSE THINGS TOO.

OH.

YOU SEEM UPSET.

OF COURSE I'M UPSET! THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!

AH. WELL. WHY DON'T YOU TALK MORE ABOUT THAT.

SNIFF.

I'M NOT CRYING!

SNIFF

YOU'RE NOT GONNA MAKE ME PUNCH ANY PILLOWS OR TALK TO A CHAIR, ARE YOU?

MY DEAR, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING. YOU CAN JUST SIT THERE IF YOU LIKE.

UH, COULD I HAVE THE KLEENEX BACK, PLEASE? I SEEM TO BE HAVING SOME KIND OF WEIRD ALLERGY ATTACK!

# The Recovery

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A GUY SLAUGHTERS 14 WOMEN WITH A HUNTING RIFLE BECAUSE HE HATES FEMINISTS! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

YEAH. NOW JUST WATCH EVERYONE SIT BACK AND PRETEND IT WAS AN ISOLATED INCIDENT... THAT IT SAYS NOTHING ABOUT HOW WOMAN-HATING OUR CULTURE IS.

THE PAPER HARDLY COVERED IT AT ALL. IT'S A CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE! CAN YOU IMAGINE IF IT WAS A FEMINIST BLOWING AWAY A DOZEN MEN! WE'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.

MAYBE IT'S JUST BECAUSE IT HAPPENED IN CANADA. IF ALIENS INVADDED QUEBEC, THE U.S. PRESS WOULD GIVE IT TWO INCHES IN THE ENTERTAINMENT SECTION.

THAT'S NO EXCUSE! "OH, IT HAPPENED 40 MILES OVER THE BORDER SO IT'S NOT OUR PROBLEM." WHEN IS HUMANITY GOING TO REALIZE? EVERYTHING IS OUR PROBLEM!!

HEY! GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, MO!

AMAZING, ISN'T IT? SEE, THERAPY REALLY WORKS.

JEEZ, SPARROW. I'VE ONLY HAD ONE SESSION! I'D PROBABLY BE FEELING BETTER BY NOW EVEN IF I HADN'T STARTED THERAPY

YES, BUT WOULD GEORGE BUSH HAVE INVADED PANAMA IF YOU HADN'T STARTED THERAPY? ASK YOURSELF THAT, MO!

LEAVE HER ALONE, LOIS!

WHAT'S THAT WEIRD TOXIC SMELL?

ARE YOU REFERRING TO MY PERSONALIZED SEDUCTION SCENT? ONE PART PATCHOULI, ONE PART CHANEL N° 5, AND ONE PART OLD SPICE. SWEEPS WOMEN OFF THEIR FEET.

LOIS, YOU CAN'T GO OUT IN PUBLIC LIKE THAT! WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ALLERGIES? YOU'RE A WALKING HEALTH HAZARD!

I'M SO GLAD THE OLD MO IS BACK! UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T STAY AND CHAT. EMMA JUST GOT BACK FROM MEXICO WITH DOROTHY, AND SHE'S MAKING DINNER FOR ME.

HOW COME EMMA GETS TWO LOVERS AND I DON'T HAVE ANY?

I DUNNO, GINGER! I GUESS YOU'RE JUST TOO WELL ADJUSTED

AAGH! LOIS, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

TAKE IT BACK OR I'LL SMOTHER YOU WITH OLD SPICE FUMES.

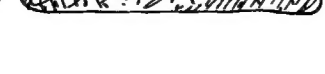
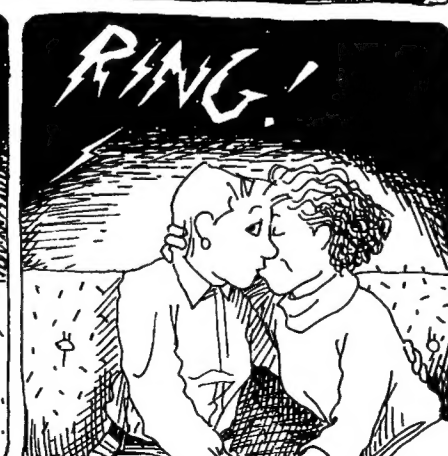
RUB RUB



# The MESSAGE

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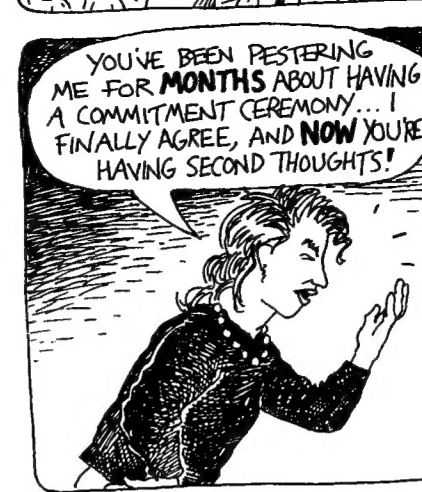
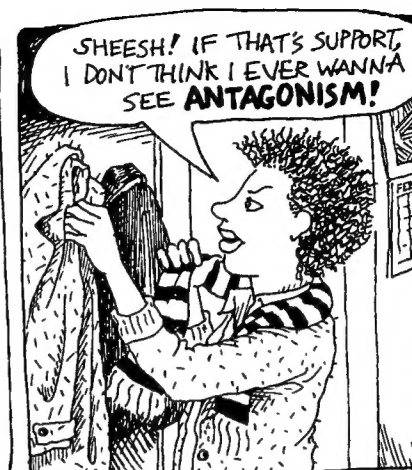


# an Unusual Plight

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CLARICE AND TONI ARE JUST RETURNING FROM THEIR SUPPORT GROUP FOR LESBIANS IN MULTICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS.





# resistance

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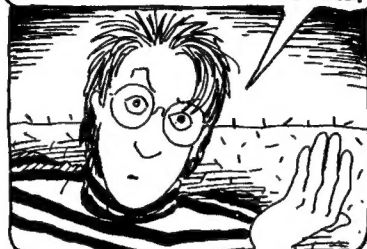
HOW DID YOU **FEEL** WHEN YOUR MOTHER SAID YOU WERE TOO OLD TO BE KISSED GOODNIGHT?

ANYA MATUSZEWSKI, L.C.S.W.

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LOOK, THIS IS **ABSURD!** I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M PAYING **GOOD MONEY** TO SIT HERE COMPLAINING ABOUT MY MIDDLE-CLASS, DR. SPOCK CHILDHOOD WHILE **HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE STARVING IN THE STREETS!** IT'S **IMMORAL!**



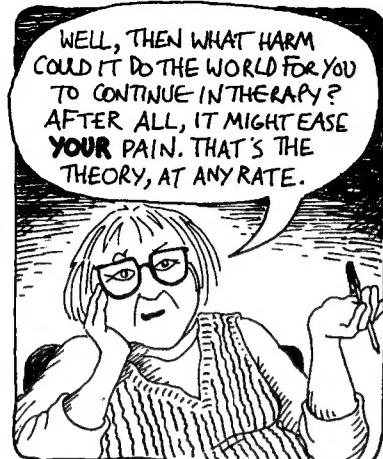
**WHY?! LOOK OUT THE WINDOW, ANYA! WAR! RAPE! DRUG ABUSE! RACISM! WITH ALL THE PAIN IN THE WORLD IT'S **SELFISH** FOR ME TO SIT HERE WHINING ABOUT HOW MY MOTHER WOULDN'T KISS ME GOODNIGHT WHEN I WAS SIX!**

IMMORAL? WHY?



AH. WELL. LET ME TRY TO FOLLOW YOUR LOGIC. IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T IN THERAPY, ALL THE PAIN IN THE WORLD WOULD CEASE TO EXIST. IS THAT IT?

**NO! THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!**



WELL, THEN WHAT HARM COULD IT DO THE WORLD FOR YOU TO CONTINUE IN THERAPY? AFTER ALL, IT MIGHT EASE **YOUR PAIN**. THAT'S THE THEORY, AT ANY RATE.



**MY PAIN? BUT I WASN'T ABUSED! MY PARENTS DIDN'T BEAT ME OR SPEND MY LUNCH MONEY ON THEIR DRUG HABITS! I HAD A HAPPY CHILDHOOD!**



MMM-HMM. WELL. LET'S GO BACK TO YOUR MOTHER NOT KISSING YOU GOODNIGHT.



**JEEZ, WILL YOU FORGET THAT?! I'M SORRY I MENTIONED IT!**



I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW HOW IT MADE YOU FEEL.



I DON'T **KNOW!** WHY DO YOU KEEP **ASKING** ME THAT? HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HOW I FELT?!

WELL, HOW ARE YOU FEELING **RIGHT NOW?**



**ISN'T OUR TIME UP YET?!**



GOODNESS! SO IT IS! WELL, WE CAN TALK MORE ABOUT THIS NEXT WEEK. WILL THE SAME TIME BE ALL RIGHT?

I SUPPOSE SO.

**W**ILL MO'S WORLD-WEARY SHOULDERS FIND BALM IN THE **BOSOM** OF THE **PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC PROCESS**? WILL LOIS AND EMMA SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATE THE TREACHEROUS WATERS OF **NON-EXCLUSIVITY**? WILL CLARICE AND TONI SOON BE COMPARISON SHOPPING FOR A **TURKEY BASTER**? ... AND WHAT ABOUT **NAOMI**?

DON'T TOUCH THAT REMOTE CONTROL!